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(Wilts)
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# *Kaleidoscopiana Wiltoniensia;*

OR,

A LITERARY, POLITICAL, AND MORAL

# VIEW

OF

# THE COUNTY OF WILTS,

DURING

## The Contested Election

*FOR ITS REPRESENTATION, IN JUNE* 1818,

BETWEEN

PAUL METHUEN, ESQ.

WILLIAM LONG WELLESLEY, ESQ.

AND

JOHN BENETT, ESQ.

*When the Two former Gentlemen were Returned;*

CONTAINING

THE WHOLE OF THE ADVERTISEMENTS, LETTERS, SPEECHES, SQUIBS, AND SONGS,

*THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED DURING THE ELECTION.*

BY AN OBSERVER.

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1818.

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(IMPARTIALLY, THOUGH HASTILY COMPILED,)

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY THEIR VERY OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.

August 7th, 1818.

# CONTENTS.


Page

A. B.'s Letter against Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 234
——————————— . . . . . 275
——————————— . . . . . 304
——————————— . . . . . 346

Advertisements respecting the Nomination at Devizes in behalf of Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 277
——————— in behalf of Mr. Benett . . . . . 299
——————— referring to Mr. Wellesley's Letter, (page 292) 302
——————— Corn Bill . . . . . 303
——————— reply to ditto . . . . . 303
——————— Mr. Benett's Committee respecting Voters . 317
——————— for a New Dictionary . . . . . 352
——————— in reply . . . . . 352
——————— for lost Voters . . . . . 353
——————— Pocket Book found . . . . . 353
——————— Tom Calley's Majority . . . . . 353
——————— Great Cry and Little Wool . . . . . 355
——————— final State of the Poll . . . . . 375
——————— for Mr Wellesley's Accounts . . . . . 377
——————— for Mr. Benett's ditto . . . . . 378

Anglois, Letter of, in behalf of Wellesley . . . . . 336

Antiquorum defines the meaning of Notorious . . . . . 124

Atherton, Nathaniel, replies to Mr. Methuen's Appeal . . 182

Barley-Corn in behalf of Mr. Benett . . . . . 186

Bayley, John, declares his intentions of bringing up Mr. Benett's Voters . . . . . 29

Benett, John, offers himself a Candidate . . . . . 2
——————— announces his success in canvassing . . . . 4
——————— ditto . . . . . 5
——————— ditto . . . . . 15
——————— ditto . . . . . 17
——————— ditto . . . . . 28
——————— ditto . . . . . 39
——————— ditto . . . . . 85
——————— ditto . . . . . 95
——————— replies to Fisher's Letter, (page 74) . . . . 99
——————— again refers to his Canvass . . . . . 173
——————— ditto . . . . . 225
——————— ditto . . . . . 286
——————— addresses the Freeholders after the Nomination 293
——————— returns thanks for his situation on the Poll . 329
——————— on Ditto . . . . . 348


37

Page
Benett, John, on the History of the Election . . . . . 355
——— to the Freeholders . . . . . 376
——— to the High Sheriff . . . . . 377
——— to his Committee . . . . . 378
——— to the Freeholders . . . . . 384
Blunt's, John, Letter on the Tricks of the Moon-Raker . . 243
Bowles, Charles, denies he is the Moon-Raker . . . . . 287
Brittanicus on the Dispute between Fisher and Benett . . 214
Bricks and Mortar . . . . . 330
Bulletin Extraordinary . . . . . 354
Busy-Body's Letter . . . . . 156
Butt's Letter . . . . . 255

Calley, Thomas, his Letter in reply to Mr. Wellesley . . 316
Calculator's List of Mr. Wellesley's Family Places . . . 301
Candidus, replies to the Independent Freeholder . . . . 37
——— in verse, to ditto (44) . . . . . 93
Chairman advertised for Mr. Benett's Dinner . . . . . 242
Chitty's Letter in behalf of Mr. Benett . . . . . 64
C. L. on the Notorious Quorum . . . . . 150
——— corrects his Letter . . . . . 190
Clothier's Letter against the Quorum . . . . . 152
——— to the Scribbler (174) . . . . . 188
——— to ditto (230) . . . . . 255
——— Last Word . . . . . 301
Cockscombe, John, in reply to Halcombe, John . . . . 318
Committee, Mr. Benett's . . . . . 287
——— Marlborough . . . . . 298
——— Salisbury . . . . . 298
——— Mr. Wellesley's, advertise respecting Communications and Carriages . . . . . 312
——— Mr. Benett's Thirteen Resolutions . . . . . 390
Contrast . . . . . 310
Contrast, True . . . . . 311
County, Well-wisher, to, Letter in behalf of Mr. Benett . . 299
Craven, Fulwar's Reply to the Freeholders . . . . . 6
——— offers to bring up Benett's Voters . . . . 9

Dinner of Mr. Wellesley's Friends . . . . . 139
——— Mr. Benett's Friends . . . . . 211
Dorset Farmers in favour of Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 31
Dunworth Gentlemen, to bring up Mr. Benett's Voters . . 86

Eighteen Hundred and Eighteen, Letter . . . . . 31
——— . . . . . 197
——— . . . . . 261
Election, History of . . . . . 321
——— . . . . . 338
——— . . . . . 350
——— . . . . . 360
——— . . . . . 364

Fact notorious, in reply to A. B. . . . . 306

Page
Family's, One of the, Letter . . . . . 389
Fisher, John's first Letter against Mr. Benett . . . . . 71
——————— replies to Mr. Benett's Letter, (page 99) . . 109
——————— to Chitty and Benett, with his Account . . 127
Freeholder's, Independent, Letter against Mr. Wellesley . 18
——————— Wiltshire against Titus Trueman . . . . . 32
——————— Independent's Reply to Candidus . . . . . 44
——————— Brother's Letter in Defence of Mr. Wellesley . 192
——————— Conscientious against Ditto . . . . . 229
——————— Ditto . . . . . 272
——————— Independent's Ditto . . . . . 297
——————— on Falsehoods and Evasions . . . . . 346
Freeholders cautioned . . . . . 3
——————— of Calne's Resolutions . . . . . 4
——————— Requisition to Fulwar Craven . . . . . 5
——————— in Behalf of Old Customs . . . . . 6
Gaby, R. H. replies to Veritas . . . . . 208
Gentlemen of Warminster in Behalf of Mr. Benett . . . 211
Goodwill, Friend to, his Letter . . . . . 265
——————— Ditto . . . . . 296
Guy, Anthony, denies the Existence of a Coalition . . . 253
Halcombe's Resolutions . . . . . 318
Hale's, John, Letter in defence of Mr. Wellesley . . . . 88
Hampshire Farmer's Ditto . . . . . 40
Helme, H. against Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 273
Heart's, my Old, Letter to the Freeholders . . . . . 173
——————— to the Old Moon-Raker . . . . 154
——————— Ditto . . . . . 175
——————— Ditto . . . . . 219
——————— Ditto . . . . . 236
——————— Ditto . . . . . 290
——————— Ditto . . . . . 319
——————— Ditto . . . . . 378
Humanitas to Titus Trueman . . . . . 89
Hunt, Henry, against Mr. Benett . . . . . 95
Independence, Friend of, in behalf of Mr. Wellesley . . . 18
Inquirer's, Mild, Letter . . . . . 284
Inquisitive's Letter to Titus Trueman . . . . . 200
Journalists of Salisbury profess their Impartiality . . . . 18
King, Thomas, of Alvidestone, offers to bring up Benett's Voters . . . . . 9
Long, R. G. informs the Freeholders of his intention of retiring . . . . . 1
Long's, John, Letter respecting Mr. Benett's Speech . . . 295
Lucas's, Charles, Letter in behalf of Mr. Benett's Religion . 275
Lunatic's Letter to the Old Moon-Raker . . . . . 106
Magistrates, sixteen of the, demand of Mr. Wellesley an explanation of the Term "Notorious" . . . . . 85
———————, twelve of the, demand further explanation . . 124

Page
Methuen, Paul, addresses the Freeholders . . . . . 2
——— returns thanks . . . . . 16
——— assigns reasons for his absence from the county 165
——— apologizes for being at Mr. Benett's Dinner 180
——— returns thanks to the Freeholders . . . . 252
——— addresses ditto after the Nomination . . . 292
——— returns thanks for his situation on the Poll . 328
——— Ditto . . . . . 347
——— Ditto . . . . . 375
Moon-Raker, Old, attacks Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 41
——— replies to the Native (47) . . . . . 61
——— refers to the Dispute between Mr. Wellesley and Salmon . . . . . 89
——— on the same subject . . . . . 103
——— replies to the Lunatic (106) . . . . . 117
——— refers to My Old Heart (154) . . . . 166
——— on the Pretensions of the Candidates . . 184
——— loses temper, and *gives notice to quit!* . . 226
——— on Pike and Everett . . . . . 267
——— advertised . . . . . 338
Moon-Raker, New, replies generally to the Old One . . 111
Native's Letter in behalf of Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 47
——— Reply to the Old Moon-Raker (61) . . . . . 64
——— to C. L. (150) . . . . . 174
——— to the Old Moon-Raker (184) . . . . . 231
——— repels the Calumnies of ditto . . . . . 259
Observer's Letter against Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 125
Pangloss, Peter, on the Notorious Quorum . . . . . 106
Peniston, John, commences Author . . . . . 304
——— Reply to his Letter . . . . . 330
Pike, Thomas, his Letter respecting Everett . . . . . 254
Races, Wiltshire . . . . . 305
——— . . . . . 354
Reader's, a Constant, Letter to Titus Trueman . . . . . 201
Roles, John, engages to bring up Benett's Voters . . . . 28
Rusticus attacks Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 190
Salmon, W. W. replies to Mr. Wellesley's Letter . . . . 39
——— defends his Conduct with regard to Mr. Benett 68
——— replies to Mr. Wellesley's Letter, (59) . . 69
Scribbler, in reply to the Clothier (152) . . . . . 174
——— (188) . . . . . 230
——— (255) . . . . . 300
Sheriff appoints the Day of Nomination . . . . . 241
Shrimpton's Advertisement . . . . . 125
Songs . . . . . 392
Timbrell, Thomas, his Letter respecting Pike . . . . . 255
Tobias's Letter to Toby Tosspot . . . . . 242

Page
Tosspot's, Toby, Letter to the Old Moon-Raker . . . . 211
——————————— . . . . 288
Thompson, Charles, his Letter in behalf of Mr. Wellesley . . 17
Trueman's, Timothy, Letter against Mr. Wellesley . . . . 10
Trueman, Titus, on the respective Merits of the Candidates . 21
——————— in reply to the Wiltshire Freeholder (32) . 50
——————————— . . 73
——————— in reference to the Notorious Quorum . . 131
——————————— Old Moon-Raker, &c. . 158
——————— on the Duke's Arms Dinner . . . . . 201
——————— to Mr. Atherton . . . . . 244
——————— to *Inquisitive* and Constant Reader . . . 248
——————— in defence of himself against the Veteran and Old Moon-Raker . . . . . 277
——————— on the Nomination at Devizes . . . . 307
——————— on the Conduct of the Freeholders . . . 357
——————— congratulates them on the Termination of the Contest . . . . . 380
Veritas, with Mr. Atherton's Resolutions . . . . . 183
——— Junior's Letter to the Old Moon-Raker . . . . . 168
——————————— . . . . . 195
——————————— . . . . . 263
Veteran's Letter against Mr. Wellesley and Titus Trueman . 269
Voter, Unpolled, his Letter in behalf of Mr. Benett . . . 330
Wellesley, Long, W. offers himself a Candidate for the County . . . . . 3
——————— informs the Freeholders of his success in Chippenham . . . . . 7
——————— ditto in Salisbury . . . . . 8
——————— Note to the Salisbury Journal . . . . 10
——————— replies to Timothy Trueman . . . . 14
——————— refers to the Calumnies cast upon his Character . . . . . 29
——————— on the second attack of Timothy Trueman 30
——————— replies to Ditto . . . . . 30
——————— Letter to Mr. Thompson . . . . . 31
——————— Advertisement to Tradesmen . . . 31
——————— Wiltshire Farmers in his behalf . . . 43
——————— replies to Salmon's Letter (39) . . . 59
——————— ditto to the Independent Freeholder . 61
——————— ditto to Mr. Salmon's Letter (69) . . 86
——————— thanks the Freeholders of Highworth . 87
——————— ditto of Reading . . . . . 89
——————— replies to a Question of the Magistrates, respecting the meaning of *Notorious* . . . . . 98
——————— refers to Mr. Salmon's smuggled Hand Bill . . . . . 102
——————— corrects the Report of the Dinner at Marlborough . . . . . 147

Page

Wellesley's, Long W. Letter, including one from Thomas Pike to Mr. Timbrill . . . . . 225
——— declares his confidence of Success, and repels the Charge of Mr. Calley . . . . . 253
——— Letter to Mr. Atherton . . . . . 258
——— Address, after the Nomination . . . 293
——— apologises to the Freeholders . . . 294
——— Letter in Behalf of . . . . . 306
——— respecting the Conduct of the Troop, at Devizes . . . . . 313
——— returns Thanks for his Place on the Poll 329
——— replies to John Halcombe . . . . 336
——— Letter on the State of the Poll . . . 347
——— . . . . 348
——— Letter with Payne, Pearce, and Payne's Affidavit . . . . . 349
——— Speech at the Close of the 4th Day's Poll 350
——— On the State of the Poll . . . . . 355
——— . . . . . 364
——— on the Termination of the Contest . . 376
——— Letter to the Freeholders . . . . . 386
Wiltshireman's Letter against Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 302
Yorkshire Farmers in favour of Mr. Wellesley . . . . . 87

# *Kaleidoscopiana Wiltoniensia;*

OR,

# VIEWS OF WILTSHIRE;

CONTAINING ALL THE

ADVERTISEMENTS, LETTERS, SQUIBS,

SONGS, &c. &c.

## During The ELECTION, June 1818.

### *To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomanry, and Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

Gentlemen,

In consequence of the continued rumours that a dissolution of Parliament will soon take place, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to communicate to you that it is not my intention again to solicit the high and distinguished honour with which I have been invested by you in three successive Parliaments.

Ill health has been the constant result of my attendance in the House of Commons during the last three years; and, as I am conscious of my inability to pay that strict attention to those Parliamentary duties which you have a right to expect from your Representatives, I trust you will be disposed to applaud rather than to condemn the motive which compels me to make this candid avowal of my determination.

In thus publicly taking leave of you, I avail myself of the opportunity to return you my warmest thanks for the very liberal and repeated marks of favour and support, which I have experienced from you during the time I have had the honour to represent you; and I am willing to hope the confidence you have so generously reposed in me has on no occasion been misplaced.

It is some consolation to me to reflect that, although I may so soon be placed in a more humble and contracted sphere of life, I may yet be of service to my native county; and whatever duties I may have still left me to discharge, your welfare and prosperity will be the constant objects of my attention.

With every sentiment of gratitude and respect,

I am, Gentlemen, your obliged and devoted servant,

*Ashton, Feb.* 20, 1818. R. LONG.

---

## *To the Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomanry, and Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

As a dissolution appears likely soon to take place, I should feel myself deficient in due respect to my constituents, from whom I have so uniformly received such flattering and independent support, were I now to delay declaring my intention of again aspiring to the highest object of a country gentleman's ambition—the distinguished honour of representing my native county in Parliament.

My public conduct is before you: I shall, therefore, not obtrude any professions on your notice, further than to express my warmest feelings of gratitude for the manner in which you have already returned me to the House of Commons; and to express my honest hope, that the confidence so generously reposed in me, has, on no occasion, been abused, and that your local interest in particular have not been impaired by my indifference or inattention.

Most earnestly and respectfully soliciting the renewal of your former support, and begging to apologize for not waiting on all of you in person at the present moment, owing to public and county business in the House of Commons,

I have the honour to remain,

Your grateful and devoted servant,

PAUL METHUEN.

*42, Upper Grosvenor-st. Feb.* 27.

---

## *To the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

MR. LONG having publicly declared his intention to decline the future representation of this county, I take this

early opportunity of offering myself to your notice, and of requesting the favour of your support at the ensuing Election.

Should you confer on me the distinguished honour to which I aspire, of representing this truly independent county in Parliament, the strongest expression of my gratitude will be found in the conscientious, diligent, and independent discharge of the duties of that important trust.

Whenever a dissolution of the present Parliament takes place, I will embrace the earliest opportunity of personally renewing my request.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your very faithful humble servant,

*Pythouse, Feb.* 23, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

---

*To the Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

AN advertisement in the Courier newspaper of this evening, soliciting your votes at the impending General Election, in consequence, as is there stated, of Mr. Long, one of your present members, having publicly signified his intention of retiring, makes it necessary for me not to delay the expression of my anxious desire to represent your county in Parliament.

In thus declaring myself a Candidate for this high and distinguished situation, I am governed not so much by any political motives, as by the ambition of restoring to the house of Draycot an honour which has been so frequently conferred upon various branches of that ancient Wiltshire family.

I will take the earliest opportunity, which the attention to my duties in Parliament will permit, of paying my respects in person to all the freeholders of the county.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Very faithfully yours,

*London, Feb.* 25, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

---

THE Freeholders of Wiltshire are earnestly entreated to be on their *guard* against giving PREMATURE PROMISES to either of the Candidates who at present have offered themselves to succeed Mr. Long.

## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

At a Meeting of Freeholders held in the Guildhall of the Town of Calne, on Friday the 6th of March, 1818;

Mr. THOS. STRETCH, one of the Guild Stewards being called to the Chair,

The following Resolutions were entered into:

1st—That the enormous expenses attending Election Contests deter honest and independent men, of moderate fortunes, from offering their services to the country in the Commons House of Parliament, where their talents might be the most effectually exerted for the public good.

2nd—That we will attend the Election and exercise the right of voting in favour of those Candidates whose public principles we most approve, at our own expense.

3rd—That the best service which every freeholder can render to his country, who is not ashamed to be treated and carried to the poll at the expense of the Candidate, is to stay at home.

4th—That the Chairman be requested to sign these Resolutions on behalf of the meeting, and have them printed in the county paper, in the hope that similar ones being generally adopted, without attempting to impose either persons or principles on any one, will induce those who are best qualified to serve the country in Parliament, to become candidates, relying for success not on their wealth, but on their principles.

THOS. STRETCH, Chairman.

---

## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

Gentlemen,

Since I last had the honour of addressing you, I have attended the Assizes in this county; and have also canvassed the city of Salisbury, the several towns of Wilton, Warminster, and Downton, and some of the adjoining villages. The kind reception which I have universally received, and the almost unanimous promise of support which has been given to me, have made a deep and lasting impression on my mind. Nothing can be more gratifying to me than the warm expressions of personal esteem with which I have been honoured in every part of this my native county. I am proud to say, that I have hitherto passed my life in Wiltshire, performing the duties attached to a private station, and I now hope, that by your kind and active exertions, I shall shortly be placed in the most exalted station of public trust to which an

independent man can aspire. I shall not relax in my exertions till I have waited on every freeholder whose name I may be made acquainted with; and I hope that if in any instance I may not have had that honour, it will not be attributed to wilful neglect. Gentlemen,

I have the honour to remain
Your very faithful and obedient servant,
JOHN BENETT.

*Pythouse, March* 14, 1818.

---

*To Fulwar Craven, Esq. Chilton House, Wilts.*

SIR,

WE, your neighbours, freeholders, and others of the County of Wilts, having observed in the last Salisbury and Winchester Journal, that R. Long, Esq. does not intend to offer himself again to represent the county in Parliament, and having witnessed your activity as a magistrate, and upon all public occasions, and fully believing you to be possessed of an independency of mind as well as of fortune, hope you will have the goodness to gratify our wishes by offering yourself as a candidate at the next General Election, or upon the first occasion that may present itself.

And, Sir, we require only one pledge from you, which is, that you on no account suffer yourself to be tempted to sacrifice your property in the pursuit, to the injury of your family, the evil example of all good men, and the risk of those services which can alone be performed by persons who enter the House of Commons freed from the dread of future expense. And we are, Sir,

Your very obedient humble servants,

| | |
|---|---|
| John Williams | Jos. Atherton |
| Fras. Williams | Wm. Hallett |
| Thos. Stroud | Ambrose Alexander |
| John Williams, jun. | Robert Vaisey |
| Robert Church | Wm. Brown |
| Thos. Chouls | Richard Read |
| Wm. Williams | Thos. Gould |
| Wm. Aldridge | John Shepherd |
| George Church | Thomas Hill |
| Richard Church | Mark Brown |
| John Hunt Watts | William Batt. |

*February 28th*, 1818.

*Chilton-House, March 4th, 1818.*

SIR,

I LOSE no time in thus publicly returning my warmest thanks to yourself and those independent freeholders for the county of Wilts who have done me the honour to sign a requisition (which I received at a late hour yesterday evening,) as well as to the numerous voters from different parts of this county that had previously solicited me to become a candidate for its representation.

When that bulwark of British liberty, the Habeas Corpus, can be suspended at the will and caprice of a minister; when the discussion on the necessity for so unconstitutional a proceeding is inquired into by a secret committee composed of ministers and their friends, and a bill of indemnity brought forward as a thing of course, it becomes more than ever necessary to scrutinize the politics of the candidates that offer themselves to your notice.

A seat in Parliament never was my ambition, and if it ever had been, the perfect cipher that an independent is now become therein, would have totally deprived me thereof.

In declining offering myself for the honour you have proposed, I beg you will rest assured how happy I shall be on all occasions to promote the interests of the county of Wilts, and how devotedly I am

Your very humble servant,
FULWAR CRAVEN.

*To Wm. Hallett, Esq. &c. &c.*

---

## COUNTY OF WILTS.

I AM an old-fashioned man, and do not like to see *old customs* abandoned, especially when those customs have been deemed salutary, as productive of general good, and contributing to the peace and harmony of a county. With such sentiments I cannot but lament, and disapprove of the *new* system which has been introduced into our county, on an expected vacancy in its representation, by *canvassing* previous to the day appointed for a nomination.

The representation of a county, though a most honourable, yet cannot be considered as an idle office; it should be entrusted only to a man of the strictest integrity and independence; to one who will consider himself as bound to support

the constitution and government of our country, and who will *dare*, whenever the motives of that government are wrong, to oppose them.

Such is the man, endowed with a proper sense of religion, morality, and good judgment, whom I would wish to trust as representative for the county of Wilts, for it matters but little whether he be gifted with the powers of oratory or not.

At the present moment two candidates have presented themselves before the public—*others*, perhaps, (adhering to our old customs,) may appear on the day of nomination. It is, therefore, a duty incumbent on the freeholders to *make no promises* previous to that day, when the general sense of the county will be taken, and the merits and interests of each candidate will be publicly and impartially canvassed and ascertained.

AN OLD FREEHOLDER.

---

## *To the Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomanry, and Freeholders in general of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I CANNOT quit the northern districts of this county to attend the Assizes at Salisbury without returning you my sincere thanks for the very valuable promises of support which I have universally received from the respectable gentlemen freeholders resident in this neighbourhood.

I have more particularly to return my warmest thanks to the freeholders residing in Chippenham, Trowbridge, Bradford, Calne, Warminster, Wootton Basset, &c. &c.

The flattering manner in which my pretensions have been received will operate as an additional motive for my applying my most anxious zeal in endeavouring to gain a fuller knowledge of the local interests of this independent county: and should I fortunately succeed in obtaining the distinguished honour of being one of your Representatives in Parliament, it will be my greatest ambition to devote the whole of my attention to the fulfilling of the important duties attached to that high office.

It was impossible, under the peculiar circumstances which hastily called me forward, regularly to pay my respects to all the freeholders even in the districts which I have hitherto visited. But as soon as the Assize business at Salisbury is concluded, I shall consider it to be my duty, without

regard to any other pursuits, to pay my respects to every freeholder in the county individually.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Draycot House, March* 8, 1818.

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*To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomanry, and Freeholders in general of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE had the peculiar gratification of meeting with the same success here which has attended me generally throughout my canvass.

In quitting Salisbury, therefore, to continue the honour of paying my personal respects to those yeomen and freeholders resident in other parts of the county, it is a duty incumbent on me to return my friends in this city my warmest acknowledgments for their kind exertions in my favour.

Though an Englishman born and educated, I cannot call Wiltshire my native county; but my dearest and best interests are there situated, and I have fixed upon this independent county as the place of my constant residence.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, March* 12, 1818.

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*To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I OFFER you my most grateful thanks for the kind and distinguished favour which you have shewn me in my most successful canvass of this independent county.

Anxious to introduce myself to every individual, whose public interests it may hereafter be my duty vigilantly to protect, I shall persevere in my exertions till I have had the honour of paying my personal respects to every freeholder.

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to those who have already signified that they deem me worthy of their confidence in the most important station to which an Englishman can aspire—that of representing *his native county* in the great Council of the Nation: I trust that I shall be honoured

with equal favour and confidence from those freeholders whose votes I have not yet been able personally to solicit, but upon whom I shall wait (without intentionally neglecting any one) as speedily as the greatness of the undertaking will permit.

In the mean time I earnestly entreat my friends to continue their most kind exertions in my behalf, by which alone my ultimate success can be secured; when it is secured, I shall be anxious to evince my sense of the great honour conferred on me, by unremitting attention to my duties in Parliament, by a rigid adherence to all the principles of our invaluable constitution, and by a zealous regard to all the local concerns of the county; with which, during my past life, I have endeavoured to make myself acquainted.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obliged and devoted servant,

*Salisbury, March* 7, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## WILTS ELECTION.

It has been agreed by Thomas King and Henry Foot, Esqrs. and many of the respectable inhabitants of the Chalk Hundred, that they will convey to the poll such of the freeholders in their vicinity (who may require the same) as are in the interest of Mr. Benett, whenever their services may be required, free of every expense to that gentleman; and that they will, in the mean time, collectively and individually, use every exertion to secure his return.

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### *To Messrs. Brodie and Dowding.*

Gentlemen,

I request that you will announce it as the intention of many respectable freeholders in this neighbourhood to take the charge of bringing the friends of Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett to the poll at Wilton without expense to him.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your humble servant,
FULWAR CRAVEN.

*Chilton House, March* 30, 1818.

## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,—A serious attack upon my character having appeared in the Reading Paper, which I have thought it my duty to answer, I beg you will insert in your paper my answer, together with the letter signed "*Timothy Trueman.*"—

I am, Gentlemen,

*Draycot House,* Your obedient Servant,
*March* 16, 1818. W. L. WELLESLEY.

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Mr. EDITOR,—I am not in the habit of laying before the public unauthenticated facts. Those which I shall now offer to the moral reflections of the humane and intelligent reader are taken from Mr. Hobhouse's Travels through Albania and Greece, to Constantinople; a book lately published, which seems, on every account, to merit a high degree of public estimation. To this work is an Appendix respecting the passage of the British fleet through the Dardanelles:—"This passage was disastrous, from the fire of two famous castles which commanded it: but the return would have been much more so, because, independent of these castles, the Turks had availed themselves of our delay, and had planted heavy artillery for miles on either shore;" and the sea is there so narrow, that Lord Byron, Mr. H——'s fellow traveller, actually swam across it, realizing the feat attributed to Leander of old. Imagination cannot figure to itself an act of more flagrant injustice, or more horrible cruelty than that which was designed to be accomplished by this perilous and ill-concerted enterprise. Its miscarriage attaches disgrace on its projector alone—but its success would have been a more deplorable calamity; for it would have attached indelible infamy on the nation at large, and rendered us unworthy to bear the name of a Christian people. Mr. Hobhouse's intention is to exculpate the cabinet at home from all participation in this horrible project, and to lay the whole blame of it on the Secretary of Legation, a young man of extreme arrogance and presumption, who, during what he calls 'the long and unfortunate illness of the Ambassador,' had the sole management of the British interests at the Ottoman court. This vapouring diplomatist, conceiving that he would ingratiate himself in a certain quarter, by forcing the Turks to renounce their neutrality, adopted the following menace to effect that purpose. He threatened to lay Constantinople in ashes, by the same means which were used against Copenhagen, if the Porte would not instant-

ly dismiss Sebastiani, surrender up the Turkish fleet to our disposal, and supply the British ships with such necessaries as they were in want of: for this purpose he said he would employ twenty-four sail of the line, though he had only three at his command, which, as an advanced force, he brought up to Constantinople, but not without considerable loss. The city is almost entirely built of wood, and contains between six and seven hundred thousand souls: its government was then in full peace and amity with England, totally indifferent to the mad quarrels of the Continent, respecting legitimacy, and desiring nothing more sincerely than to live in christian peace and charity with all mankind. On this occasion the two nations seem to have changed characters; the barbarians acted like christians, and the christians like barbarians.—At last this Braggadocio Secretary discovered what he ought to have known from the beginning, that though force unjustly applied may sink a corrupt nation into obsequiousness, it only exalts an uncivilized one to the madness of despair. He discovered also, that all the means of violence were not engrossed by himself; and that this unoffending people were not so defenceless as he imagined. He learnt, that at the first shot fired in Constantinople, all the English merchants and others belonging to the British factory there, would have their throats cut, and that throughout all the Turkish dominions a dreadful retaliation would be adopted. Relying on the pacific disposition, which has for many years past prevailed in the Turkish divan, this presumptuous politician adventured to lay down the character of a Representative of a just, generous, and a philanthropic nation, in order to assume the part of a Herod, threatening fire, fury and desolation to all who opposed his wishes; but he found that he had to deal with men who were not novices in such matters, and who could upon occasion even "out-herod Herod:" being therefore baffled in his own way, he thought fit to renounce his pretensions and patch up a peace with the Turks, who desired nothing better. Though it may be true as asserted by Mr. Hobhouse, that Ministers at home were not the inventors of this disgraceful project, yet it appears to be true even from his own account, that they have been the rewarders of it: a pension of eight hundred pounds a year is now paid to the quondam Secretary for his honourable services on this occasion!!

I have been told, but I will not answer for the correctness of the information, that the gentleman, who thus degraded the national representation at Constantinople, is the same

identical person who now offers himself a Candidate for the representation of the county of Wilts in Parliament. On this head, I conceive it right, that accurate information should be given to the Electors of Wilts, who, as they belong to a large agricultural and manufacturing county, will perhaps not approve of a tax laid upon the national industry, to reward an individual for a project to destroy six or seven hundred thousand of his fellow creatures, whose sole offence was a stronger propensity to preserve christian peace and charity than appears to have been entertained by this professed christian himself. If it should prove true that the gentleman, who now aspires to the representation of Wiltshire, was actually the same person who represented the bloody Herod at Constantinople, that sense of national honour, which is so prevalent among the Wiltshire freeholders, will, I presume, cause an extinguisher to be speedily put on his insulting hopes, and there will be a final termination of the business at once; but if my information on this head should prove erroneous, then indeed it may not be amiss to examine into this person's pretensions. It appears even from his own advertisement, that he does not ground these pretensions on the broad, the solid, the fundamental principle of Independence. He seems to bear an antipathy even to the word, for it does not once occur throughout his whole advertisement. It is therefore natural to expect, that Wiltshire independence will be exerted in mortal opposition to this Candidate. Neither can I discover in this strange, this unparalleled address, the least intimation of a desire to restore our constitution to its primitive excellence; or of a wish to alleviate the distresses of the people by a just retrenchment of the public expenditure in cases where no honourable or equivalent service has been performed.—On what then does this presumptuous Candidate found his pretensions? It is on *female partiality!* This is the circumstance which has made the gentleman the representative of the house of Draycot, and which he further conceives a sufficient qualification for the important trust that he now solicits from the Wiltshire Electors. Now what is there in a lady's favour that ought, in the name of justice and of common sense, I put the question, to command such a confidence? We are told by a great Poet, that

> "It is not virtue, wisdom, valour, wit,
> Strength, comeliness of shape, or amplest merit,
> That woman's love can win, or long inherit;
> But what it is, hard is to say—harder to hit,
> Much like thy riddle, Samson, in one day
> Or sev'n, though one should musing sit."
>
> *Milton's Samson Agonistes, line* 1016.

Now a man must decipher this riddle, and ascertain what the qualities are which gain a lady's affection, before he can pretend to say what are the real grounds of this gentleman's pretensions. One qualification may be gathered perhaps from an old proverb, which says, "faint heart never won fair lady"—indeed it should seem that this candidate for female and Parliamentary choice was not much impeded by modesty in either case. I have heard that this fair prize was likewise a very rich one—that many a dirty acre was entailed on the lady; or, to use the French mode of expressing the thing, *lui pendoit au queue;* but it would be an horrible grossness for any man to suppose that the representation of the county *lui pendoit au queue aussi.* It would be comparing all the land in Wiltshire to a spot of dirt upon the fair maid's petticoat, and transferred with her sweet person, for better or worse, to the arms of her triumphant lover. Now this is an idea too insulting to be endured for a moment; and yet without harbouring some such notion, it is difficult to understand what is meant by the address above alluded to. Some of my friends in fact, who are Wiltshire Electors, have declared that to them it is totally incomprehensible.

Before I conclude this letter permit me, Mr. Editor, once more to declare, it is not my intention positively to assert that the *man*—I almost scruple to apply that dignified appellative to one, who, dead to every feeling of common humanity, threatened, but feared to execute, the herodian project of indiscriminate slaughter upon unoffending innocence in a city far greater than Jerusalem.—I do not mean to assert that this being is the same identical individual who offers himself in your paper a Candidate for the county of Wilts.; no, Sir, I only mean to suggest inquiry on that important point:—perhaps the result of such inquiry may prove, that one is the father, and the other is the son; in which case I trust the friends of freedom in Wilts, who there, as elsewhere, are always the friends of justice, will not visit the sins of the parent upon the offspring—and by the same rule of reason and equity they will not, I apprehend, suffer the virtues of a man's ancestors, or his wife's ancestors, be they what they may, to have a feather's weight in the balance when placed in competition with those real qualifications, which render a representative truly independent, and worthy to be entrusted with the care of the public purse, as well as the constitutional right; will not, I am confident, depend for matters of such great importance on the "shadow of a name"—*nominis umbra stultorum Pignus*:——I remain, &c.

*Buckinghamshire, Mar.* 10. TIMOTHY TRUEMAN.

## *To the Editor of the Reading Mercury.*

SIR,

AN attack upon my character having appeared in your paper, in the shape of a letter, addressed to the Wiltshire Electors, and signed Timothy Trueman; I shall, out of respect to the independent freeholders of that great county, answer this unfounded aspersion.—I consider that the private character, as well as the public conduct of any person ambitious of representing the county of Wilts, ought to be such as will bear the strictest investigation: I therefore challenge inquiry, and I defy malignant slander.—The accusation alleged against my public conduct appears to have been founded upon an extract from Mr. Hobhouse's work. It is my duty most positively to declare that Mr. Hobhouse's statement, as extracted in your paper, contains not one word of truth.—I am "*the Man*" who was employed in arduous negociations with the Porte; and I received in consequence of the success attending those negociations the highest honour which can be conferred on a British subject—*the official* notification of his Sovereign's approbation of his conduct, and which his Majesty, at a subsequent period, was graciously pleased (personally) to repeat to me. Unsolicited, I was appointed also to an office of trust, as a reward for my services, by the present Lord Grey; and I was honourably mentioned in parliament by the late Mr. Fox, at a period when my family were the most decided political opponents of those ministers. The negotiations in which I was engaged were for the purpose of preventing the war the Russians were desirous of entering into against the Porte; and the result of the service of the British embassy was the arresting the devastation of the two provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia. I was not the projector of the Dardanelles expedition, nor was I engaged in directing, in any way, the execution of it. The three ships which were advanced to Constantinople were, by the Porte, admitted to anchor under the walls of the Seraglio without the slighest molestation. They suffered no loss whatever. Not a shot was fired at them. The intrigue of the French minister, together with the rapid military success attendant upon Buonaparte's arms, precluded the possibility of the continuation of peace between the Russians and the Porte. The fleet under the walls of the Seraglio saved by its presence the lives of thousands of British subjects, and enabled the British embassy to place in safety on board those ships the persons of the Russian ambassador

and suite. The fleet sent to the Dardanelles was not for the purpose of destroying Constantinople, but had for its object the obtaining possession of the fleet, arsenal, and naval stores belonging to the Sublime Porte. The fleet did not commence any operations for that purpose until repeated acts of hostility had been had recourse to on the part of the Turks.

Should this statement chance to meet the eye of any British subject resident at Constantinople during the period of these transactions, he will do me the justice to acknowledge that my most anxious solicitude was engaged in placing in a state of safety every soul of them. He must know that the lives and properties of all, without one exception, were placed in a state of security. Although entitled to a pension I declined receiving it, and I now possitively declare that *I never received* any pension from any government. As to the observation made by T. Trueman, the best pretensions to honourable female partiality are not incompatible with some of the qualifications necessary to constitute a worthy Representative of the county of Wilts—rectitude of conduct. Had "the shadow of a name" been sought by me as the means of presenting myself before the independent electors of Wilts, I might have referred to my own blood; but I considered that the truly independent course adopted in Parliament by the members of the House of Draycot such as I should desire to follow, and which would now, as it has done before, meet with the approbation of the electors of the county of Wilts.

A strict independent course of public conduct in Parliament for six years, makes it unnecessary for me to sound at every opportunity the word "*independence*," whilst it enables me to call upon the electors to judge of my character by the test of my public conduct during that period.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Draycot House, March* 18, 1818.

P. S. I now call upon "TIMOTHY TRUEMAN" to come forward and state his real name, and to offer me an apology for giving publicity to such unfounded aspersions on my character.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

MY canvass, during the last week, has been chiefly confined

to the populous districts of the large manufacturing towns of Westbury, Trowbridge, and Bradford. My success has far exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

I cannot refrain from repeating my expressions of gratitude to my numerous friends, and must request them to continue their exertions; which will, I trust, produce a speedy termination of their labours.

I shall not relax in my endeavours to wait on every freeholder as soon as possible.—And I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your very faithful and obedient servant,

*Pythouse, March* 21, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE result of my late canvass has very far exceeded my most sanguine expectations. My reception among you has been indeed most flattering; and could I be insensible to the personal kindness which has been so strongly manifested towards me, I should ill deserve the distinguished support with which I have been honoured.

Though the general zeal to serve me makes it impossible to particularise any individual district, yet common gratitude calls forth my best acknowledgments to those gentlemen who have so generously stepped forward, in various parts of the county, with offers of sending up their less opulent neighbours, free of all expenses, on the day of election.

At the same time, however, that I most thankfully accept these offers (not less valuable for the independent feeling which they evince, than for the powerful support which they afford,) I think it incumbent upon me thus unequivocally to declare, though I may profit by them on some occasions in common with another candidate, that I stand entirely free of any understanding whatever with him, and that no consideration should induce me to accept assistance on the terms of entering into coalition, or taking any part, directly or indirectly, with any other gentleman.

I beg to assure those who may in the hurry of my canvass have been omitted, that it has been my endeavour to apply either by letter or personally to every freeholder, and I trust they will accept my apologies for having, through ignorance of their residences, unintentionally neglected to pay them that respect which they have a right to receive from their

representatives.—Most earnestly, therefore, requesting the favour of their support,

With every sentiment of gratitude,

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your grateful and devoted servant,

PAUL METHUEN.

*42, Upper Grosvenor st. March 26, 1818.*

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that the promises of support which have been given to me during the week have been as numerous and as flattering as at any former period of my canvass.

If I have omitted to wait on any freeholders residing in the places which I have already visited, I beg to assure them that the omission has not been intentional, and that I will return to those places as soon as my engagements will permit, for the purpose of paying my personal respects to every individual.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your very faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN BENETT.

*Devizes, March 28, 1818.*

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

SIR,

OBSERVING in your paper of the 23d instant, a letter (originally circulated in the Reading Mercury) which I conceive to be a false as well as malicious attack on the character of Mr. William Long Wellesley, I think it but justice to the individual attacked to say, that the author is wrong as to the number of ships said to be brought before Constantinople in the first instance; as there was only one frigate for considerably more than two months, except the Canopus (a ship of the line) for a short period, which frigate remained in the harbour till the 29th of January, 1807. I assure you there was not a shot passed between the batteries and those ships until a considerable time after the above date.

From my being at, and in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, at that critical period, for more than three months, I had daily opportunities of conversing with the gentlemen composing the British factory at that place; and their opinion was, that the ambassador and Mr. Wellesley (then Mr. Pole) acted with the greatest energy and humanity, in rescuing, not only the British subjects, but likewise those of Russia, from the well-known power of the Turks.

I beg to say that I am in no way interested as to the result of the Wiltshire Election, neither have I seen Mr. Wellesley since his departure from the fleet, previous to the forcing the passage of the Dardanelles (which, if my memory does not deceive me, he did); consequently he could not have been present at the negociations subsequent to that event.

My only motive for addressing you is, to endeavour to rescue the character of the above gentleman from so malignant an attack. I remain, Sir, &c.

*Penton, March* 25, 1818. CHARLES THOMPSON.

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☞ The Printers of *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal* will not insert any anonymous letters, or notices with fictitious signatures, respecting the ensuing election for Wiltshire, which in their judgment may, in the slightest degree, reflect on private characters; nor unless the names of the authors are communicated to them. Subject to this restriction their press will be open for advertisements to all the candidates and their friends.

N. B. The letter from Hungerford is not published at present, the signature being supposed to be fictitious, and the name of the author not communicated to the Printers.

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## *To W. Long Wellesley, Esq.*

SIR,

WHILST you continued in the station of a private individual, or the member of an obscure borough, it might have been thought impertinent for any person unconnected with you to have interfered in your private concerns. With whatever feelings of regret we might have contemplated the improvident waste of an immense property; however we might have lamented in silence the misapplication of your talents; the injury sustained by yourself, your family, and the public; but having avowed your intention of offering yourself as a Candidate to represent this county in Parliament, and as you say in your letter to the editor of the Reading Mercury, "You consider the private character as well as public conduct of any person ambitious of representing the county of Wilts, ought to be such as will bear the

strictest investigation;" it becomes the right—nay, the duty of every elector to examine into your conduct, to ascertain how far you are qualified or fit to fill that important station to which you aspire.

You ground your pretensions to that honour from your alliance with the Draycot family. It is true, several descendants of that ancient and respectable family have represented this county in many succeeding Parliaments, but it was not altogether from their bearing the name of Long, or enjoying the Draycot estate, that they arrived at that honour; but from their sound principles and exemplary conduct. They resided at Draycot, were acting magistrates, attended the assizes, sessions, and public meetings of the county; they lived in a truly hospitable manner, and diffused happiness to all around them! Ask yourself, Sir, if the scene has not been changed since you have become the owner of the family possessions. You succeeded to the united fortunes of the Long and Tylney families, increased and accumulated by a long minority—a fortune very superior to what had been enjoyed by any individual of that house before. With this wealth you might have lived in a splendour, unknown to any of your predecessors, and proved an ornament and blessing to the country. Your lady, no doubt, had a partiality for the place of her nativity, and we might readily conceive would gladly have resided, sometimes, at Draycot. Had the splendid palace of Wanstead allured you, you might have resided at either house alternately.—Lady Catherine, no doubt, would have complied with your wishes, and have resigned the situation to you; you might then have become known and respected in the county and the kingdom, not only as a member of the Long family, but as a relative of that hero, whose name is famed and adored, not only through Britain, but through Europe, and the civilized world. Thus connected and allied, had you acted with moderate prudence, you might have offered yourself to the county as a candidate, and have been chosen by acclamation; but now, should you pursue your plan, it must be attended at all events with a contest, and may probably end in defeat and mortification.

But how have you acted? Instead of pursuing the line I have chalked out of residing in the county, and making yourself known to the body of people you now call on for their suffrages, you are a stranger to all except a few individuals, besides your tenants and dependants. Whenever you have visited your estates, you have rode through the country like an *avant courier*, and returned with equal speed. Your only

object seems to be to strip the county of its riches, and lavish it away in idle expenses elsewhere!—The source from which the charity and hospitality of Draycot used to be supplied, is dried up, and the "poor and rich alike" are sent empty away!

I have not the honour of being personally acquainted with you, but having had some knowledge of your lady's ancestors, and a great veneration for your noble relations; and knowing as I do, the temper and disposition of the freeholders of this county; I give you the same advice as I would my brother or nearest friend—Retire, Retrench, Reform! Let the noble Duke inhabit your princely palace, till the gratitude of his country can furnish him with another; and if you have any desire of the honour of representing this great, wealthy, and respectable county, come and dwell amongst us! Let Draycot or Seagry be your residence, whichever may best suit your circumstances. Become what my Lord Sidmouth justly calls one of the pillars of society,—an acting magistrate. And let me remark there is no part of the county where an acting magistrate is more wanted. Here is a great vacancy without such a character. If you are ever our representative, the county will expect you will in some measure supply that vacancy. And above all, remember, that the freeholders of this county have always been particular in the choice of a representative. They have always expected him to be *a man of independent principle, of independent fortune, of good moral character, a firm supporter of the laws and constitution of the kingdom, and also a resident and acting magistrate of the county.*

Ask your confidential friends whether this be not the case; and then ask yourself, if you will, whether you answer the description or not. The great expense of elections, are lawyers' and publicans' bills; they are both more than double what they formerly were: avoid them then at present *in toto*. A contest for the county even if you should succeed, will probably ruin your already injured fortune; and if you obtain it by opposition now, you may have another opposition to face on a future occasion.

Let me then, again advise you to retire into the country, there repair your injured fortune, study the history, laws and politics of the kingdom, and the agriculture, manufactures and interests of the county; and then upon a future vacancy you may offer your services to the county, and be gladly accepted; but in any future address, do not say that you are not governed so much by any political motives, as

by the ambition of restoring to the House of Draycot an honour which has been frequently conferred on that family, but let the interests and welfare of the kingdom in general, and of this county in particular, be your primary object, —that of conferring an honour on the Draycot family a secondary one.

I am, Your's,

AN INDEPENDENT FREEHOLDER.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

To reflect and to anticipate, is natural to man as a rational and intelligent being. The events of yesterday, and the prospects of to-morrow, have such a powerful influence upon the transactions of to-day, that they constantly insinuate themselves into our habits of thinking, form the best criterion for judging of men and things, and establish an unerring directory for our conduct. Experience is a monitor whose lessons are never attended to but with advantage; and where the power of giving them effect rests entirely with ourselves, should our intentions be frustrated, or our expectations be but partially realised, or totally disappointed; we must refer the failure to the want of that care and caution which should have possessed our minds and regulated our conduct, while professing to listen to the monitions of an instructor so wise, so faithful, so disinterested! Seasonable at all times, there are some occasions which present themselves, on which the exercise of this duty is not only essentially necessary, but is rendered paramount to every other. With you, gentlemen, that time has arrived. The certain and speedy dissolution of Parliament will again call you to the exercise of your elective franchise; will again bring your representatives before you, and will thus enable you to make them sensible of your opinions concerning the way in which they have discharged the trust you had delegated to them. Six years ago, gentlemen, you returned R. Long, and P. Methuen, Esqrs. as your Representatives in Parliament; you confided to them the honour and the interests of your country in general, and of the county of Wilts in particular: they are shortly to surrender that trust, and it is your business to call upon them for an account of their stewardship. If they have been found faithful, they will receive the meed of your approbation; and should they desire it, would no doubt be returned by you to the same exalted station.

which *acting* is excluded, and where, if ever man should appear in his real character; if you find him as versatile in sentiment as he formerly attempted to be in talent; if you should find that he has no fixed principle, has laid down for himself no settled rule of conduct; that his variations, if not attributable to the wind, had no other apparent *stimulus*; that if so far from rendering his county respectable, he first made it contemptible by the ebullitions of his ignorance, and ridiculous by the mode of its display; that he never proposed a motion which he did not withdraw, nor seconded one which he did not afterwards disavow; if you find that when his services were required by his constituents, he refused them; the *vanity* of the man may prevent your being surprised at his again requesting you to return him to parliament; but nothing can absolve him from the insult offered to your understanding by telling you "that his conduct is before you," indirectly requiring your approval! What can he suppose you are made of? St. Vitus himself never displayed a course more irregular! Perhaps he imagines (as he must do) that you have been influenced by the splendour of his example, and are now composed of materials like himself! Probably that you are indifferent to his proceedings; or, what is indeed the truth—he never contemplated the resignation of Mr. Long, and therefore never imagined he would be called to account for them. But is this really Mr. Paul Methuen, the member for Wilts? Let us see, gentlemen. His first attempt at business and popularity was a motion to revive the obsolete story of the Princess of Wales, by impugning the character of the Regent or his ministers. Here he blundered on the very threshold; took nothing by his motion, except quietly submitting to be reproved for his temerity, and laughed at for his folly. You next find him (for he had changed sides) seconding the address to the Regent on the opening the session; and immediately afterwards he is seen in the ranks of the Opposition, where he has since remained—remained, however, without notice; for such a changeling can confer no weight by the addition of his name to any party; and his talents were never of a description to awaken fear. From that time, however, gentlemen, your county has not been represented in Parliament. You may as well send no members to the House of Commons as to send two men who pursue a diametrically opposite line of conduct. The "*Aye*" of the one is rendered completely nugatory by the "*No*" of the other; and your sending Mr. Methuen to Parliament to act in concert with Mr. Long,

was by the political tergiversation of the former totally frustrated. You yoked them together, but the young one was no sooner at freedom to use his legs, than he began to caper; not content with now and then "slipping over trace," and running first to one side of the road and then the other, he broke them entirely, and with the aid of the party was fastened to the tail of your caravan, and while old dobbin was pulling at the head, he was exerting all his powers in a quite opposite direction.—This was not your intention, gentlemen, in sending him to the House of Commons; your county deserves two efficient members; you meant that it should have them, but it will not have them should Mr. Methuen be elected by you on the ensuing Election, unless he should *change again*; but even then you have no security against his reverting to his former practices.—It is true he has done but little mischief, he had not the means; "the spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak." It was from no want of inclination, however, and had he been a man of as much consequence in the eyes of others, as he was in his own, his career would have been differently distinguished. He is a sort of *orderly man* in the house; for excepting in cries of "Order, Order," or "Hear, Hear!" to which all his labours are now confined, you would not know, gentlemen, that there is a representative for the county of Wilts in Parliament! Numerically he is something; his name makes one on a division, a mere *unit*, and that is the only time that the party look towards him, just as we do to a weathercock, to observe the quarter from whence the wind blows. Even to the wishes and interests of his constituents he has shown a marked disregard.—When invited by some of the most respectable landholders and farmers in the county to lend his assistance in promoting an object essentially to their benefit and that of the community at large, he replied to their request by saying "*the roads were bad!*" Nor did he attend to the application! Roads bad indeed! Had he no carriage? Were there no west country coaches? Were the roads worse for him than for other people? Was his fortune so reduced that he could not pay for a ride, or was he more tender of the four-footed companions of his former travels than of the welfare of his constituents?

Gentlemen, I said that he had done but *little* mischief, but if you should re-elect him, you will do a *great deal!* You will by this sanction his conduct, and send it forth to the world that the county of Wilts is of opinion that *consistency* forms no part of the representative character; and that the

most trifling causes are sufficient to warrant a dereliction of duty. I think, however, that you will not very soon forget the "*bad roads;*" they may probably be so bad at the time of the election that his friends may forget to poll for him in any other way than by proxy! Such, gentlemen, is one of the Candidates for your representation; you will find a very different one in

*John Benett of Pythouse.* This gentleman is well known to you all, and your interests are perfectly known by him. His life has been laudably spent in improving the system of agriculture, in fertilizing the soil which gave us birth. He is a man of superior talents, of learning and science, steadily attached to the government and constitution of his country, of an independent fortune, and of a mind more independent. A man more deserving of a seat in the House of Commons than Mr. Benett never entered its doors, and you will act wisely in returning him. On all questions of a local nature you will find Mr. Benett the man of your desires, no man more capable of fulfilling them, no man will find a greater pleasure in doing it.

Were England the only country on the face of the earth, had the work of creation been limited to its shores, then a thorough knowledge of its soil, of the nature of its produce, and a competent acquaintance with local circumstances, would have been amply sufficient to qualify a man for a seat in the council of the nation. As England forms, however, only a small, though a most important and powerful part of the world, a thorough knowledge of her relations with other states is essentially necessary in one who aims at a seat amongst the legislators of his country. Mr. Benett's pursuits have been of a different kind; he pretends not to this; his business has been at home; but, gentlemen, your representation will even in this respect, feel no deficiency, if with him you elect

*Wm. Long Wellesley.* To a long line of honourable ancestry; to a family possessing weight and influence; to a princely fortune, he adds a mind too independent to accept of even a *merited* reward; too upright to suffer the ties of blood to sway his judgment, or the blandishments of rank or power (so alluring to a youthful mind) to interpose between him and the conscientious discharge of his public duty. Of distinguished ability, and indefatigable in his application, a man of business from the beginning, you find him early selected and sent on a most important mission to a foreign power; you see him discharging the perilous duty with ala-

crity, zeal and sympathy; returned, he receives the marked approbation of the best of sovereigns, the thanks of the representatives of a grateful people! In the senate you find *him* no partisan, no changeling, faithfully attached to the laws and the government of his country, bold in avowing his sentiments. Such *a man* may with a good grace tell the world that his "conduct is before" them; he may submit it to the eye without dread or shame, and as he has been with others, gentlemen, so will he be with you.

But it has been said, in answer to the pretensions of Mr. Wellesley, that he is not a *native* of Wilts. "A native of Wilts?" Gentlemen, he is an *Englishman*; and shall that name which is a passport to the end of the earth, be refused admission among you? Shall it be held sacred wherever the sun shines, and shall it lose all its charms amongst *you?* If so your patriotism, though, like the sun, it may warm yourselves and cheer others, it seems, alas! to follow the course of that luminary, and declines in its progress to the west! "A native,—not a native!" Are half the members of the House of Commons *natives* of the places they represent? Is Mr. Wellesley's a new case? Is it an extraordinary one? Heard ye never of Princes ascending thrones who were natives of other countries? To have disputed their right would have been treason against them; to dispute on the score of *nativity* the right of Mr. Wellesley to appear amongst you, to stand for your county, is treason against yourselves. His *nativity* is the only objection; a proud thing for him that it is so! Could any thing else have been urged against him, it would have been done; and as for *this*, the precedents are too ancient, too numerous, too commanding, to affect him in the minds of the least accustomed to reflection. Does the city of Salisbury send *natives* to Parliament? Do you think that it is because there is no wisdom, no zeal, no loyalty in Salisbury, that its corporation go to Longford and the Moat for a supply? Does the *independent* borough of Wilton send natives to Parliament? Does *Downton good-now?* Does one place in a hundred? Why then object to Mr. Wellesley on this ground? Carry your *native* representative system into practice, and the Speaker of the House of Commons would have to announce two buck rabbits as the members for that truly ancient, independent, populous and respectable borough. "Not a native?" why, gentlemen, you who are farmers, do not object to sow your grounds with wheat, because it comes from Talavera; neither do you refuse your flocks the nutritious turnip, because it happens to be a Swede-

land; nor do you shut your windows against the sun, nor grumble at its brilliancy, though his rays are first scattered on the mountains of India, and render translucent the waters of the Atlantic.

Gentlemen, the country knows no local distinctions amongst its members; "whoever's good and virtuous is a Roman." You have associated in your fleets, your armies, your courts of law, your houses of legislation, in your government, Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotsmen. You will find in the various departments of the state, men of almost every clime, and do not you be the first to call what has been universally practised, and found universally beneficial, *an evil:* prove that you think with all mankind, and return Mr. Wellesley as your Representative.

TITUS TRUEMAN.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I RENEW my thanks for the additional promises of your support which I receive every day in my progress through the county.

I cannot witness without grateful emotion the spontaneous kindness of those gentlemen who have resolved, in their several districts, that my friends should attend the poll in my support without expense to me. While it evinces the confidence which they are pleased to repose in me, it affords a decisive proof of their zealous regard to the independence of the county.

That independence has ever been dear to the freeholders of Wiltshire, and I doubt not that they will assert it at every opportunity. Should I by your exertions attain the great object of my ambition, the glory of my success can only arise from the consideration, that I shall be wholly indebted for it to your free and unbiassed suffrages.

Gentlemen, I have the honour to be,

Your most obliged and devoted servant,

*Pythouse, April* 4, 1818. J. BENETT.

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## *To the Printer of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

SIR,

I THINK it necessary to inform the public, through the medium of your newspaper, that several gentlemen of the

Hundred of Branch and Doyle, anxious to maintain the independence of the county and the freedom of election, have authorised and desired me to state that they have agreed to convey the voters in the interest of John Benett, Esq. to the hustings at the ensuing election, at their expense.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

*Maddington, April* 1, 1818. J. ROLES.

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*To the Printer of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

SIR,

I BEG to inform you that several gentlemen of Downton, with due regard to the independence of the county, have agreed to convey the voters in this district, in the interest of Mr. Benett, to the poll at Wilton, free of any expense to that gentleman.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

*Downton, April* 3, 1818. JOHN BAILEY.

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*To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomen, and Freeholders in general, of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I had the honour first to present myself to your notice as a Candidate for the representation in Parliament of your independent county, I judged it to be the least assuming course to refer in no way to the public transactions which had been entrusted to my care.

I considered that coming before you as a country gentleman, attached by ties of alliance to a family well known and equally respected in this county, possessing therein increasing interest, as well as, I trust, a fair and independent character, to be qualifications which the men of the county of Wilts would not reject.

The malevolence of slander has brought under your consideration my public conduct. The justice done my character by, to me, an entirely unknown spectator of events in which I was engaged, proved the horrible accusation alleged against me, of inhumanity and bloodshed, to be totally false.

—My private character it has also attempted to bring into disrepute.

I am an Englishman born and educated,—not an Irishman; I am not heir to a seat in the upper house in Parliament,—I am no place-man, nor pensioner;—my public character has been uniformly governed by a strict but moderate line of pure independence. I have never laid myself under obligation to any man, but I trust I shall soon have it in my power to feel sensible of the obligation which can be most gratifying to an independent mind, that of having confided to its care the interests in Parliament of this great county.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, April* 3, 1818.

P. S. As to the idle insinuation of my having endeavoured to use Treasury influence during my canvass, and of having threatened officers of the revenue with the displeasure of that board, I positively assert that I never used any threat, nor attempted to obtain a single vote by means of the Treasury.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

A REPEATED attack on my character, signed T. Trueman, has appeared in the Reading Mercury of last week. The letter is of too great length to be inserted in your paper, I therefore beg the favour of you to find in your columns a place for the two following letters only.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, April* 2, 1818.

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An Answer to Timothy Trueman's Reply to Mr. Long Wellesley.

*To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I SHOULD be unworthy of coming before you as a Candidate for the honour of representing in Parliament your indepen-

dent county, were I to condescend (until T. Trueman chooses to avow his real name) to do more than thus publicly declare he is the propagator of falsehoods.—I now for ever take leave of T. Trueman,

And have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, March* 31, 1818.

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*To Charles Thompson, Esq. Penton.*

SIR,

PERMIT me to have the honour of returning you my best thanks and warmest acknowledgments for the justice you have done my character.

The disinterested man who defends by truth, false assertions alleged against a public servant, becomes a valuable ornament to society.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, April* 3, 1818.

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THE professional gentlemen, and all tradesmen and others, who are engaged for Mr. Long Wellesley in his present canvass, are requested to send in their accounts to the 25th of March last; and in future to the 25th of every successive month, to Mr. George Butt, solicitor, Salisbury, that the same may be regularly discharged.

*Salisbury, April* 3, 1818.

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## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

THERE having appeared in print a reflection on the conduct of Mr. Long Wellesley, as a landlord; we, his tenants in the county of Dorset, whose names are hereunto affixed, beg, in the strongest terms, to make it publicly known, that we have uniformly experienced from that gentleman the

kindest and most liberal treatment,—such as will ever unite us to him by the strongest ties of gratitude; and such as will always make us *proud* to acknowledge ourselves,

His dutiful, respectful, and very obliged servants,

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|---|---|
| J. G. Balston. | Robert Jolliffe. |
| Sam. Boswell. | Robert Purchase. |
| Thos. Collier. | Richard Pearse. |

*Admiston, April 3,* 1818.

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

SEEING in your paper of Thursday last, an address to the freeholders of the county of Wilts, signed "Titus Trueman," I cannot as a brother freeholder, withhold a remark or two on the object and origin of that curious composition.—The object is clearly to effect a coalition between Mr. Benett and Mr. L. Wellesley, and to turn out Mr. Methuen. The origin of it bears evident marks of Treasury influence, though the materials are of the most clumsy and inexperienced manufacture. It is not my intention, nor indeed is there occasion to notice the innocent attack on Mr. Methuen's youthful eccentricities, with which he may be fairly jeered, though I suspect not *effectually* charged, as the wilder his former character, the more gratifying it must be to see that all the power of Mr. Trueman is now in vain exerted to find a vulnerable part on the grounds of private life to direct the shaft of his weak, though malevolent displeasure. I have somewhere met with a distinction between argument and assertion:—Argument is the bow of Ulysses, which few men can draw: Assertion is a mere cross-bow, which every child can make use of. I must therefore compliment Mr. Trueman on his judgment in selecting the latter weapon. But to proceed—I am not here the champion of Mr. Methuen's conduct in the House of Commons; though, on the present occasion, "the very head and front of his offending" amounts to this:—he has felt disposed, when they acted rightly, to support; when they acted wrong, to oppose government. He defended her, whom in his conscience he honestly, though perhaps erroneously, believed to be an injured princess. He seconded an address, congratulating the country on the success of the battle of Waterloo, and after seconding that address, his feelings of independence led him to scorn the jobs of government, and oppose measures which militated against

economy, retrenchment and the true spirit of the constitution.

For thus daring to emancipate from shackles with which ministers flattered themselves they had bound him, there was no species of low abuse with which the Treasury scribes did not at that period load him; it is not therefore to be wondered at, that the same hirelings, or rather their lowest agents, are at work on the present occasion, to revenge themselves for the loss of the income tax, and opposition to the corn bill, on neither of which points (the latter perhaps a tender one) Mr. Trueman has attempted to touch. I think, however, when faults against a representative are so largely urged on the truly English principle of "fair play's a jewel," one or two facts, as a *per contra*, should be brought forward. I should therefore remind my brother freeholders (and appeal to every professional man in the county, for the truth of the assertion) that Mr. Methuen has paid unremitting attention on all occasions to the local interests of his constituents, and no man did more to effect the fall of the income tax. He felt (for which some people cannot forgive him) that the corn bill was a selfish measure, devised by the large landholders, not for the good of the farmers, but for the purpose of keeping up their own rents, and consequently the price of provisions. He therefore opposed that measure. His successful endeavours to promote economy also, have gained him the approbation of his constituents, and perhaps the envy of his rivals. To mention one occasion in particular (so much for the statement of Mr. Trueman) his exertions were crowned with success by the reduction of Mr. Croker's salary. The most serious part, however, of Mr. Trueman's charge appears to be Mr. Methuen's not obeying a summons from Mr. Benett to attend him on his agricultural bench, at least if the story about *non-attendance* and bad roads alludes to any thing founded on fact, and not on fiction (which is more than I intend to assert) this must be the occasion of the offence, and the cause of it, that Mr. Methuen most inconsiderately and culpably neglected to do homage to Mr. Benett.

If this be a *sin* of omission in the eyes of Mr. Benett and his friends, I confess it is very far from a *sin* of commission in mine, or I believe in that of the generality of the agricultural freeholders. Sir, I confess myself one of those who think that that society has been formed for far other than agricultural purposes, or interests; that there were as good farmers in the county before Mr. Benett was heard of; and that keeping ground in his own hands does not constitute a farmer; that the very act of doing so beyond a reasonable

extent, on the part of a large landholder, is a direct injury to society, in the number of families which are prevented earning their bread on the soil by industry and labour; not to allude to the motive, that of not choosing to be contented with the rent that a farmer can afford, or ought to give.

The long and short of Mr. Trueman's address is this:—We must return two Treasury members; Wiltshire, like Hampshire, must be a government borough. The cloven foot is fairly out; two tools are at your service, (which is Mr. T.'s character of them in opposition to their own profession). Can you hesitate between them and a man so decidedly in opposition as Mr. Methuen? You must take both of them, or you will not be represented at all, as Mr. Methuen's vote must neutralize the one given for government on all occasions. This is indeed coming to the point; "call you this backing of your friends? a plague upon such backing!" How have Mr. Benett or Mr. L. Wellesley declared themselves unconnected with the Treasury!—all spirit and independence;—and you, Mr. Marplot, officiously step forward like a blockhead, and let the cat out of the bag, by telling what I am bound to believe you suppose the real truth, "That they are both government candidates," and that unless the county return both, Wiltshire will not be represented; because (in your prodigality of information, you tell us) the opposition will neutralize the vote of the government member.

Such is the species of argument with which you insist upon the propriety of returning Mr. Benett, and Mr. L. Wellesly, the twin pillars of government; you must have both or neither. "Happy, happy, happy pair!"—Gog and Magog!—one is nothing without the other; the cart without the horse; the sage without the goose; Don Quixote without his Sancho Panza; in short a pair of boots made right and left, of no use separate.—The country at large is to benefit by the travelled experience, the diplomatic dignity, the more matured and finished faculties of the head of the house of Draycot; by his thorough acquaintance with foreign parts, Seraglios of course inclusive.

"Qui mores hominum multorum videt et urbes."

While the county of Wilts is to look to her own immediate advantages in the more circumscribed, modest, and unassuming intelligence of Mr. Benett; his coolness of intellect, clearness of conception, and facility of delivery; his intimate and practical acquaintance with the soil, the produce, the poor-rates, the tythes, the paupers, and the gossips of his own immediate neighbourhood. Well done, well done, Mr. Trueman, excellent well! I have heard of nine tailors making a

man, but I had yet to learn that two men (*ergo* eighteen knights of the shear) were necessary to make one knight of the shire. The possession, or chance rather, of such a representation, is indeed a glorious prospect for Wiltshire; a revival of the golden age, at a moment when it will be so truly welcome, not only to cheer the hearts of the farmers, but the hopes of the candidates themselves.

The only little drawback against the realization of this Utopian vision, is the impossibility, coupled with the necessity of returning four members; unless, indeed, (always of course considering Mr. Benett and Mr. L. Wellesley as going only for one) you could find a third man, in whom the talents of the former two were happily blended—a *rara avis*; which, in the proverbial dearth of intellect, at the present moment, can hardly be hoped for. The analogy (which, by the bye, directly militates against Mr. Trueman's opinion and distinctions between county and boroughs, in the former part of his letter) between the representation of Wiltshire and that of Downton, Wilton, or *New* Sarum, (why leave the *Old* out?) must be most satisfactory, even to the warmest advocate for a native member, and most flattering to the independent feelings of this complimented county. But to be serious with Mr. Trueman, contemptible as he is; let this insect beware how he flutters where he cannot soar; how he shews his tail where he cannot sting; as his venal insignificance, though full security for himself, will not avail to prevent exposure of his employers, by provoking inquiry and putting an end to delicacy. He has drawn the curtain from private life, as far as suited his purpose, or gratified his malice:—Let him beware! Though I have proceeded further than I intended to do, and perceive myself in practice acting contrary to the neutrality which I set out with professing; though I have disavowed myself the champion of Mr. Methuen, and am now provoked into defending him, I shall dare the charge of inconsistency, and declare to Mr. Trueman (though a good cause, like Mr. Methuen's, does not need abuse to help it) *partial* concealment shall not be tolerated in favour of other candidates. The curtain that Mr. Trueman has so far drawn shall be at once open to the public; and in this I am conscious of being the champion of justice, and not of Mr. Methuen. Mr. Methuen shall not have the irregularities of his thoughtless youth now raked up, and rayed in judgment against him, without receiving the more than equivalent advantage of his amended character. As a man, as a master of a family, as a landlord, as a magistrate, as a christian, he shall be triumphantly contrasted in every relative

situation with his rival candidates (or candidate according to Mr. Trueman). It shall be seen whether the poor have been less attended to, less numerously and less advantageously employed, in the parish of Corsham, than in those of Pythouse and Draycot; it shall be proved, for which of the three gentlemen the credit for rational hospitality, decency of life, observance of religious duties, real liberality, fair dealing between man and man, punctuality of payment, and strictness of integrity, can on the highest degree be demanded. The habits, the manners, and the morals of each, shall be impartially though severely scrutinized. Be wise in time! Refrain, those who have glass windows. The proverb is somewhat musty; but if one garret window is cracked on the one hand, not a pane in the houses of the others shall be left whole. Be cautious;—a rod is in pickle, every twig of which may draw blood. A word to the wise.

Mr. Methuen may, however, securely smile at the feeble malice—the effort without the power—the attack without the blow—(*telum imbelle sine ictu*)—of so contemptible and impotent an opponent; of so unguarded (and it is but justice to believe, so unauthorised) a partisan as Mr. Trueman. Well may Mr. Methuen exclaim, "O that mine enemy had written a book."

The shallow attempt to produce an unfavourable impression with the yeomanry of the county against that gentleman, is of a piece with the other specimens of liberality and candour. I not only caution that respectable and honest class against giving credit to malicious falsehoods, or to anonymous slanderers, but I take upon me boldly to assert, though Mr. Methuen has conscientiously differed with Mr. Benett on the subject of the corn bill, that on no occasion have his exertions been wanting in the House of Commons, to oppose every tax that oppressed, and to support every object that relieved, the agricultural interest. Many, many gentlemen of that respectable class can and will bear witness of his exertions in their cause; nor will the assertions of Mr. Trueman want contradiction if he dares fairly to come forward before his county, and lay his charge like a man, which if he believes it to be true, (as far as regards the neglect of his representative) he is bound to notice on the proper occasion, and bring before the proper tribunal in person.

I remain Sir, your obedient servant,

A WILTSHIRE FREEHOLDER.

*And a Friend of Mr. Benett, but not at the expense of Mr. Methuen.*

## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

HAVING seen in your paper of yesterday, a letter, signed an "Independent Freeholder," containing some remarks on the conduct of Mr. Long Wellesley, and, above all, some *advice*, I feel it a duty I owe to the freeholders of the county of Wilts, to make some observations on an Address so unnecessary,—so extraordinary; and to prevent them, if possible, from becoming the dupes of a system originating in fear, and supported by falsehood. It is an old saying, Sir, though not worn out with age, *that those generally are the most forward to give advice, who have taken the least of it themselves.*—I do not say, that this is the case precisely with the "Independent Freeholder," but his *store* appears so ample, and had remained so long uncalled for, that, fearing the strength of his maxims would evaporate before their excellence were known, and invade the territory of his *cranium*, he determined to take out the spigot, and thus save himself from a Lunatic Asylum!

The object of Mr. Wellesley, Sir, is an honourable one; he pursues it in an honourable way, and the attempts that are made to frustrate the object of his wishes, will only redound to his honour, and ultimately secure his success.

Whether the writer in your last be a freeholder or not, is a matter of small moment. Of his *independence*, however, there can be no doubt, for every word he says is independent of *truth!* With regard to the charges he brings against Mr. Wellesley, even, if true, they have no reference whatever to his public duties. The brightest luminaries of wit and learning had their defects. There are spots on the sun itself, but we do not, on that account, exclude his rays from our habitations: the greatest heroes and statesmen of which England can boast, have had their weaknesses, and even their vices; but this did not render their courage or their patriotism suspected, nor their services unavailing. Perfection is not the attribute of man; and he that is disappointed at finding so little of it in other men, should console his mind with the knowledge, that he exhibits a perfect model of it in himself.

I wonder, Mr. Editor, if this independent freeholder has ever had the gout? Do you think, Sir, that when groaning under those felicities which such a state may claim as peculiarly its own, that he would refuse the proffered aid of his physician, merely because he might have in the course of his life committed a *faux pas* with his chamber-maid; or on some evening had lost a rubber at whist?—I think not. He, on the contrary, would beseech him, for God's sake, to exert his utmost

under the signature of Mr. Wellesley, expressly naming me, and containing a similar assertion to that in the postscript to which I allude, was circulated in some parts of the county about three weeks since. That hand-bill having been construed by some persons as a charge against me of being the author of a *false report*, I had determined, in vindication of my character, to publish a statement of the circumstances which gave rise to the report of which Mr. Wellesley complained; but being assured, by Mr. Wellesley himself, that he had not intended to charge me with misrepresentation, and feeling averse from obtruding myself on the notice of the public, I suppressed the publication.

The *renewal of the subject*, by Mr. Wellesley, has, however, in the opinion of many of my most valuable friends, rendered it necessary for me no longer to remain silent, lest it may be supposed that I submit to the charge of having made an "idle insinuation." In deference to their opinion, therefore, I am reluctantly induced to request you to insert this letter in your next paper.

I shall not, however, trouble you with a long detail, but, trusting that my character is too well known in the county to make it readily believed that I have been the author or propagator of a falsehood, I am satisfied with thus asserting, that I have never made or authorised any statement which is not warranted by facts; and that I am ready to explain every circumstance in which my conduct may be implicated, to any gentleman of the county who may think it necessary; but that having nothing whatever to do with Mr. Wellesley's contest, I shall not intrude myself on the public with any farther explanation.

As an officer of the revenue, however, I think it right to add that I have no reason to believe that the "Treasury influence," disavowed by Mr. Wellesley, has been used for or against either of the Candidates for the representation of the county; and that I never heard such influence adverted to, except by Mr. Wellesley himself, and his agents, by whom both myself and a friend were told that "he had the support of Government."

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

*Devizes, April* 9, 1818. W. W. SALMON.

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*To W. Long Wellesley, Esq.*

SIR,

PERMIT us, your Hampshire tenants, to express our surprise and indignation at the appearance of a public attack on your character as a landlord.

We owe it to *you*, Sir, to contradict, thus publicly, this vile aspersion; and to *ourselves*, to declare it is without foundation, and that we feel the warmest attachment to your person.

The repeated acts of kindness we have experienced at your hands, compel us to enter most feelingly into the object of your present pursuit; and whilst we hope, with sincerity and confidence, you will eventually realise your wishes, we cannot but regret your *true* character is not more universally known to the freeholders of Wilts.

However the tongue of slander may attack you—however the pen of a *secret coward* may attempt to blast your reputation, yet we are persuaded your character is sufficiently brilliant to disperse the venom of the one, and to rise proudly pre-eminent above the reach of the other.

We are, Sir,
With every feeling of gratitude, attachment, and respect,
Your faithful Tenants,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. Keep | W. Whistler | J. King |
| T. Hasker | W. Duckett | S. Thackham |
| G. H. Langdon | W. Smith | B. Hellhouse |
| J. Rogers | W. Hogsflesh | W. Kernett |
| T. Godfrey | H. Luff | W. South |
| D. Fuller | J. Cordrey | J. Wells |
| H. Price | E. Lee | M. Jones |
| E. Chamberlain | J. Coleman | J. Rivers |
| N. Mott | F. Duckett | J. Neville |
| G. Green | G. Matthews | G. Woodcock |
| S. Varndell | J. King | T. Waters |
| H. Chalwin | J. Knight | G. Hathaway |
| F. Bruford | E. May | J. Draper |
| R. Ellis | W. Monk | J. Cox |
| Jas. Rogers | M. Newman | J. Hathaway. |

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

IT is the infirmity of declining life to imagine that the past generations were wiser and more virtuous than the present. Old men are apt to believe that the companions of their youth were more sensible of public duties, and more energetic in asserting public rights, than their degenerate posterity. I hope, Gentlemen, I am free from this credulity; for while I boast of the virtue of those who entered life with me nearly fourscore

years ago, I trust that my younger friends of the present generation will not consider it as the infirmity of age, but will rather imitate the example of their forefathers.

Forty-six years ago I was in the vigour of life, and bore an active part in the glorious struggle which was then made by the freeholders of Wiltshire to assert the independence of the county.

I remember that a gentleman then offered himself as a Candidate, who was a member of one of our most ancient and respected families, and was already in the service of the county, as an active magistrate, and colonel of the militia. No defect of personal merit was imputed to him;—nor had he either in Parliament or elsewhere supported any measures which could excite political objection to his pretensions. Had he appeared merely in the character of a Wiltshire Gentleman, he might have been generally received with favour; but he principally founded his claim upon the weight, the property, and the respectability of his family; and offered himself *not so much from any political motive as the ambition of restoring to a house* the honour of representing the county, *which had frequently been conferred upon its various branches.* He rested his cause much more upon his powerful connections than upon any public services or personal merits.

I remember that Mr. Goddard also offered himself, not affecting superior personal merit, or public services more important, but as a plain Wiltshire Gentleman, born and constantly resident in the county upon his own paternal property, familiar with all ranks of men residing in it, and anxious to serve them all to the utmost of his power. At the same time he avowed that he had a great political motive for offering himself, namely, to oppose the pretensions of any single family, or any single house,—*even the highest and the most ancient in the county;*—and he called on the great body of the freeholders, in maintaining his cause, to assert their own independence.

My old heart is warm when I remember how his call was answered. The word "Independence" operated like a charm upon every freeholder. The gentlemen of the county instantly felt that their cause and his were inseparable and identical. The principal towns were animated by the same enthusiasm, and united against the man who asserted the pretensions of a single family, in favour of the man who asserted the common rights of all the freeholders. The yeomanry were ardent in the same cause, when they found that the man who asserted these common rights was one who had long been known to them, who had long been engaged in their service, and of whose

fidelity in the cause which he maintained they had the strongest assurance,—as he was unconnected with political parties, and evinced *no ambition* but to maintain the high character of a plain English gentleman.

The contest, though sharp while it lasted, was not of long duration. The true men of Wiltshire triumphed; and Mr. Goddard was elected by a great majority.

Old as I am, it is still my daily custom to drink one cheerful glass to commemorate that event, and to wish long continuance to the independence of the county. Of late I have not taken it with the same glee as when our friend Mr. Goddard (who is gone before me) proposed that we should drink it in bumpers; and if there were many together, it was then followed by a general huzza thrice three times repeated. But I expect that we shall soon have occasion to drink it as merrily as ever, for the good cause of 1772 will not be given up in 1818.

I remain, Gentlemen, your constant reader,

*Swindon, April* 10, 1818. AN OLD MOON-RAKER.

Mr. Editor, I am an older man than you, though you have passed your eighty-second year, but there is no great difference of age between us. If any one should call me a prattling fool, which, perhaps, some young gentlemen might do, I hope you will give me a good word. I assure you that the Moon-rakers are the best of your friends.

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## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

HAVING noticed an advertisement in your last paper, signed by the tenants of Mr. Long Wellesley residing in Dorsetshire, expressive of their respect and gratitude towards him, in answer to certain attacks made on him during his canvass for the county of Wilts, especially those in your paper of the preceding week, signed "An Independent Freeholder;" we, the undersigned, his tenants in Wiltshire, being desirous that the goodness of his heart should be made known, beg to say, that when times were bad for renters, he made us the most liberal allowances by abatements in our rents, and otherwise. In short, his conduct towards us has ever been that of a worthy and considerate landlord; and we thus publicly request him to accept our grateful thanks for the numerous favours we have, from time to time, received from him.

And remain, his dutiful,

And obliged humble servants,

John Russ — James Lane
Charles Baker — Robert Harding

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|---|---|
| Jas. Browning | Isaac Smart |
| Thomas Ferris | Joseph Vines |
| John Lanfear | Thomas Baily |
| Richard Hull | Wm. Belcher |
| Thomas Hulbert | Thomas Bullock |
| Thomas Ferris | James Tanner |
| Thomas Hayward | Jonath. Salter |
| Samuel Bethell | John Lea |
| John Smith | Thomas Day |
| Jacob Smith | Isaac Day |
| Thomas Sealey, sen. | Joseph Vines |
| Edward Hollis | Wm. Collings |
| Joseph Robbins | Wm. Reeves |
| John Perris | I. Underwood |
| Jacob Hand | |

*Tithe Renters at Kington St. Michael.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Ayliffe White | James Coller |
| James Mascall | John Reeks |
| Betty Baily | Daniel Collett |
| Joseph Stump | Isaac Neate |
| Thomas Lane | William Skeate |
| Jacob Ferris | Thomas Hayward |
| John Hitchcock | Robert Greenman. |

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

A CELEBRATED author has written to prove, that there is no earthly blessing without its concomitant evil; our nicest feelings, our greatest comforts, our best passions, have their alloy; and there is no enjoyment of the one, without being subject to the ill effects of the other. If such be the case with the dispensations of Providence, what must we expect from the works of man!

Our happy Constitution—the most perfect that human wisdom ever devised—is not without its bad consequences. Some of the worst evils resulting from it, are those arising from contested elections, particularly those for counties. Too often father is set against son—the son against the father; brother against brother—and the bosom friend is turned to the bitterest enemy. Drunkenness, riot, and confusion prevail. The Candidates, from having affluent and independent fortunes, are sometimes reduced to indigence and penury, and become the tools of Ministers to repair their injured estates. Whenever

these evils can be averted, they should; and I think they might and ought to be on the approaching election for this county. With this view, I published my letter to Mr. Long Wellesley, inserted in your Gazette of the 2nd instant; and I may venture to say, never did a person write a letter on a political subject from more pure or disinterested motives. I wished, if possible, to have crushed the contest in its commencement. I was in hopes some abler pen than mine would have been employed for the purpose; but as no one stepped forth (according to a writer in your last paper, who styles himself "Candidus"), I drew the spigot from my cranium, and suffered my maxims to escape. Whether they are the effusions of a distempered brain, or of a person likely to stand in need of a Lunatic Asylum, I leave the public to judge. "Candidus" wishes to palliate the charges made against Mr. Wellesley, by saying "there are spots on the sun;" and that "the greatest heroes and statesmen this country ever produced have had their weaknesses, and even their vices." I suppose he alludes to our Harry the Fifth; but Candidus should recollect, before that monarch ascended the throne, and became a great statesman, he abandoned his vicious companions, left his bad courses, and became a steady and virtuous character. Candidus does not attempt to say this is the case with his friend Mr. Wellesley. "Perfection (this writer says) is not the attribute of man." But does this prove that we ought not, in choosing our senators, to select those whom we think approach nearest to that point, and whom we think best qualified for the station? Our immortal poet, in enumerating the stages of human life, reckons three in manhood;—the soldier, the lover, and the justice. I apprehend Mr. Wellesley is not yet arrived at the latter stage; he has still some youthful foibles to pursue, —and, till that is over, the character of a magistrate would not well befit him; and this ought to precede that of a county member.

The charges I have made against Mr. Wellesley are, his profusion of expense at Wanstead, and his non-residence and parsimony at Draycot, in the county he wishes to represent. These charges Candidus does not pretend to deny, but makes a sort of jest about residence and other qualifications, I have stated in my former letter, a member for the county ought to possess; but boasts that Mr. L. Wellesley can measure acres with any other Candidate in the county, and has pledged himself to make it the place of his residence. Candidus then, for want of matter to support his friend's case, vents his spleen and abuse on me. I am called "a tailor, or a *qui-tam* attorney."

Love," "Body o' me, what a many-headed monster have I propagated!" One half, however, I mean the private scandal, may be answered in few words—"tis all a lie." But as this candidate for your favour, challenges inquiry and solicits your support, in the presumption only, of maintaining in all the relations of life, a strictly honourable and independent character, it may be worth while to look a little into facts. He has been depicted to you as a bad husband—an oppressive landlord—a gambler, and a spendthrift.—A bad husband!—Though from the concurrent testimony of those who are intimate in his family, and who know him best, he is a most faithful and affectionate one; and when I tell you that Mrs. Long Wellesley is a contented wife, such of you gentlemen as are married, will I know, ask not another question; you who are single will do well to consult the ladies, who are excellent casuists in these matters, and will tell you, that the husband who can fairly boast of having a contented wife, is entitled to no small praise. —An oppressive landlord—yet during the late unfavourable times not one of his numerous estates has been vacant—nor has he received from a single tenant notice of an intention to quit: his tenants to a man are enthusiastic in his praise.—A gambler! But his friends know that he never gambled; indeed he has no passion for play, nor has he ever in his life lost five hundred pounds.—A spendthrift! It is true that on his marriage large sums were required for family settlements and arrangements, with which the public have nothing to do; it is also true that in the first year or two he spent more than prudence warranted; but from that period he has lived with strict economy and much within his income: he is principally his own steward, and controls his private concerns in the most honourable and judicious way.—Farther, he has been called an Irishman, and described as presumptive heir to a seat in the upper house of parliament!—An Irishman! Good God!—could we have expected, that within three years after the battle of Waterloo, the name of Irishman would be applied to a nephew of the Duke of Wellington as a term of reproach! and that too by a set of men who assume to be a sort of ultra-loyalists. Within one hundred and thirty years we have invited one king from Holland and another from Germany; why not then a representative in parliament from Ireland? But this much abused Irishman, I suppose from an inherent propensity to blundering, so distinguishable in his reputed countrymen, happens to have been born, bred, educated, and to have spent (I may say) his whole life in England! As to a seat in the upper house of parliament, it must be an Irish seat with a vengeance, for it is

a seat without a bottom to it! It is possible that some thirty years hence, he may inherit a title, though it is by no means certain; and should he obtain no other seat in parliament, than what this title would give him, the keenest sportsman amongst you will never "find him sitting" there. As to the charges brought against him by Timothy Trueman, they have been already sufficiently refuted; nay, to what do they amount? Mr. Long Wellesley, eleven years ago, when scarcely nineteen, was placed, by the unforeseen illness of the ambassador at Constantinople, in a situation of unexampled difficulty; he has the unsolicited testimony of a most respectable eye-witness (Mr. Thompson), that he acted with energy and humanity;—he received both officially and personally the thanks of his sovereign; he was rewarded by Lord Howick, and commended by Mr. Fox. What is there opposed to this?—Mr. Hobhouse's book, which has never been looked to as of much authority, and Timothy Trueman's malignant slander and intemperate abuse! The charge of Mr. Wellesley's having received a pension *(in which the public are chiefly interested)* is utterly false. The very bad grace with which Trueman *("lucus à non lucendo")* retracts this charge, proves his total want of candour and gentlemanly feeling, as well as his malevolence towards Mr. Wellesley; which may be further exemplified by another falsehood in his second letter, where he asserts that Mr. Wellesley complained of him for attacking his *private* character. It is true that he complains generally of "malignant slander and unfounded aspersions," but he mentions his *private* character only once, and then to challenge inquiry into it.—You see then how much credit is due to Timothy Trueman! *("Mic niger est.")* The charge of exercising Treasury influence, after a little investigation, falls to the ground, and proves to have originated in the mere gossiping of "respectable friends and professional agents;" worked up to something serious through misapprehension and mistake. But even Treasury influence would, in my estimation, be far preferable to the domineering control of a magisterial oligarchy, which for a period of more than forty years contrived to keep our county in complete subjection. To restore this odious system, is I believe the object of Mr. Wellesley's most active opponents. Let it be yours to resist it. We may perhaps indulge a smile when Mr. Methuen in the House cries "*order, order!*" as if he were offering a practical specimen of his ability to fill the chair, on the next vacancy: but let us never forget that it is to this gentleman we are indebted for our emancipation from "*club law*," and for this let us shew our gratitude by giving him our

support. It has been further urged against Mr. L. Wellesley that his father is a minister of state; but our Candidate may say with "Ben" in the play before alluded to,—"what, thof' he be my father, I ant' bound prentice to 'en!" In fact he has refused to "belong in politics to any man;" and if he cannot represent you unshackled and independent he will decline representing you at all.—It is true that on general principles he may be inclined to support the present administration; which with me would be no particular recommendation; but with the high and mighty ones—commanders of cavalry and infantry—Dons and big-wigs, I should have concluded this would be quite "a feather in his cap,"—a sure passport to their favour. There must then I know be some strong motive for their clamorous opposition to him, which time will bring to light.—Meanwhile let me advise you not to suffer yourselves to be "hood winked" before you enter into the contest; I take the liberty of cautioning you, because I have been very nearly led to submit myself to that uncomfortable operation. "Open your eyes and see!" Talk to Mr. Wellesley, question him, he is easy of access, and will be happy to answer you; the better you know him the more ready you will be to believe, that he is not a bad husband, nor an oppressive landlord, nor a gambler, nor a spendthrift; nor is he an Irishman, (poor, insulted Ireland!) nor heir to a seat in the upper house of Parliament, nor is he a placeman, nor a pensioner, nor a tool of ministers, nor a scamp from the Treasury, nor a manœuvring justice of peace, "nor the Devil nor Doctor Faustus;" but he is a warm-hearted, high-spirited, and independent Englishman, and therefore a fit man to represent an independent county in Parliament.

In conclusion I have only to request your indulgence, if in the course of my letter I have betrayed any moon-raking propensities, relying on your partiality to excuse them, as I am, "*bonâ fide*,"

A NATIVE.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

"A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back."
*Solomon.*

"Forty stripes, save one, but that one the *heaviest* of them all."

GENTLEMEN,

You will observe from my motto how many subjects I have in hand; you will also see how I intend using them.

Since I had the honour of addressing you on the 2d instant through the medium of the press, some circumstances have oc-

curred which renders an observation from me essentially necessary. The first, gentlemen, to which I shall call your attention, is to a speech delivered by your able and zealous Representative, Mr. Methuen. It must be highly gratifying to you, gentlemen, (whatever may have been the occasion) to find that he has recovered the use of his tongue; that "Jack's alive;" that "Richard's himself again;" and you may confidently expect to see in his next advertisement, that the reason why he has not personally paid his respects to the freeholders of Wilts, is because he has been engaged so actively in his Parliamentary duties. That you know, gentlemen, is the usual phrase; and before your election terminates, you will have enough of it.

It is not on account of the speech, however, that I address you; you will see by the report, that his oration only occupies six lines and a half, and consequently not more than one minute and three seconds in delivery. It is to the subject on which that speech was delivered that I more particularly request your attention. When a dissolution of Parliament is expected or becomes inevitable, it has ever been the object of the party, of which Mr. Methuen is a neglected member, to bring forward some motion or bill which may have the effect of doing away those impressions which their conduct may have made upon the country in general, and upon their constituents in particular. If the tricks they have played off have failed to excite admiration, and in its stead have produced feelings of contempt or abhorrence; if the "traps" in *their* acting have failed to stimulate a "clap," and universal hissing has followed their exertions, they attempt, if possible, to secure a portion of applause for their exit. Like experienced boatswains, when the vessel is paying off, and fearful that after having tormented you through the voyage, you may feel inclined to bring their sins to remembrance, they present you with a glass of grog to make all matters up, and are stupid enough to believe that you will think them hearty fellows for so doing.—But, gentlemen, you are not, and you must not be, the dupes of such artifice. You must be frequently put upon your guard against them; although you have already seen enough of them not to be "ignorant of" their "devices."

Gentlemen, the revenue necessary for the purposes of the state, and the payment of the public creditor, are necessarily laid upon the necessaries of life. It would be bootless to lay them on articles for which there is no demand—for which there is no consumption. Now, amongst the present imposts

that are brought in aid of the revenue, is a duty upon leather. It was in the reign of Queen Anne that a duty was first imposed on this article of trade and commerce, it received no increase until the year 1812. During that period, though every thing had risen in value to double, and in some instances to treble the price; though every thing that we eat or wear had been put in requisition to secure the safety and independence of the country; leather during that period, and during a struggle to which there is no parallel in the records of time,—leather was suffered to remain exempted from any additional burthen. In the year 1812, an additional duty was laid upon it, which it was now the object of the party to have removed. Now, gentlemen, the original duty produced in the year ending the 5th of July, 1812, was £363,890; with the additional duty it produced in the year ending the 5th July, 1817, £595,000; so that the sum from which the suffering tanners sought to be relieved by the bill recently thrown out was £231,110. The repeal of a tax, gentlemen, is always a desirable thing—is always a popular measure; but if you are compelled immediately on the repeal of one duty to impose another, you will agree with me that we had much better have an evil that we do know, than one we do not. Now, when you consider the immense domestic and foreign trade that this country carries on in leather; when you consider, that the tanners for near a century have never been called on, on any new emergency, to contribute to the wants of the state, does it not seem a little strange to you, that they should be the first to come forward and represent as an intolerable burthen, an impost, the effects of which they do not feel either in diminished consumption or declining profits?

It is true, the party said "the tanner could not lay it on the consumer;" that is, that he was obliged to pay it out of his own pocket. Do you believe this, gentlemen? The tanners are certainly a very considerate race of men! Good souls, they tan only bullocks' hides, they suffer those of christians to go free! But even were this the case, they have had a long range of prosperity, and they ought to shew by their cheerful submission to the *present*, their gratitude for the *past*. It was a shameful act of ingratitude to make the proposition; it would have been a glaring act of injustice to the community had it succeeded. You need not be told, gentlemen, that unless there be a surplus in the revenue, where a tax is taken off from one necessary of life, it must be laid upon another, and one perhaps not so well

able to bear it. How otherwise is the deficiency to be supplied? Therefore, when Mr. Methuen shall tell you on his canvass, or when he meets you at the hustings, "you know I did all I could to get you a cheap pair of shoes," do you say in reply, "Paul, thou art beside thyself;" had you taken it from our "*shoes*, you must have laid it on our *hats*." If any thing were necessary to shew the baseness of the party with whom your sage representative has associated himself, it may be found in their conduct on every occasion when any thing relative to the revenue is before the House. You all know, gentlemen, how they chuckle when a deficiency of the revenue is announced; how they catch at every tale they hear, how eagerly they tell it, how industriously they propagate it; and yet with what showers of crocodile tears they affect to lament its inadequacy to meet the public burthens! while at every opportunity that their own selfish and interested purposes require it, they are bringing forward measures to *decrease* rather than to *add* to its amount. Although they know that though improving with the improved state of the country, it is still insufficient; and though they know that in the present state of things, one class of the community cannot be relieved but at the expense of the other; and that no one necessary of life can be eased from a tax without another unavoidably contributing to make it up; yet they are unceasing in their attempts to embarrass the public business, and if possible to wipe off the odium, which attached to their own oppressive measures, during the *day and a night* that they were in power.

You see therefore, gentlemen, that the bill before the house which called forth the Ciceronian powers of Mr. Methuen, was in itself unprincipled and ungenerous; that it originated in the selfish views of the tanners, was introduced to subserve the purposes of a general election, and to make the party popular; but which never, if it had passed, could be of *any advantage to you;* for the tanners themselves say, that they *never have* laid the tax on the consumer; and therefore, gentlemen, you would have had your shoes no *cheaper* if it had been repealed; you will have them no *dearer* now that it continues; and you will no doubt lament with me, that Mr. Methuen should have appeared in the ranks of a party, whose only object is to embarrass the government, in the hope that they may one day be admitted to a share of it; and who (to use the words of Sir Francis Burdett, at Brentford hustings, in reference to these very men when in power) would soon convince the nation, that their "little finger"

The phrase which the "Wiltshire Freeholder" employs when speaking of me is as follows:—"But to be serious with Mr. Trueman, *contemptible* as he is, let this insect, &c." Now, gentlemen, when you and I consider a thing contemptible, we usually take no notice of it; we think it deserving of none; we should consider it a folly to waste our time about it. But if I, gentlemen, after calling a thing contemptible, as the "Wiltshire Freeholder" does my letter to you (for of me personally he knows nothing) were to spend four days and a half in framing a reply to it; if I were to take the trouble to go all the way to Greece for the bow of Ulysses to shoot the author; if I were to ransack all the shelves of a circulating library for proverbs to suit my purpose; borrow wit from play books, and proofs from "Holy Writ;" assail him with language living and dead (a *dead language*, for theirs is a *dying* cause,) and fence the whole with a threat of vengeance should he be again so *contemptible* as to disturb the mighty Goliah of Wilts; why, gentlemen, you must think that when I called him *contemptible*, I did not *think* him so, and that I was either a *fool myself*, or, what is more to be believed, that I was desirous of *making fools of you*. Gentlemen, I shall not call this Freeholder *contemptible*; I will not deal in mere assertion, but I will most effectually *prove* him to be so! As an "insect," gentlemen, you see he has not as yet been able to crush me; and when you see him groaning through nearly two columns of a newspaper, you must be convinced that he has not only seen my *tail* but felt the *sting!* unless we are to believe that he is one of those cowards who bellow before they are hurt. Had my letter contained one untruth, or one misrepresentation, it would have been contemptible, truly contemptible, for falsehood ever is so; but from this I am completely exonerated by the Freeholder himself; he has drawn aside "the curtain" with a vengeance; and having discovered poor Paul naked and defenceless, has exhibited him in that state; and, as if all this were not enough, he has taken his "rod" out of "the pickle," and applied it so powerfully (I had almost said *properly*) to the shoulders of poor Mr. M. that his back has more the appearance of a map of England and Wales, than any thing that I can call to my remembrance.

You have often witnessed, gentlemen, in courts of justice, when a counsel had a bad cause to defend, on finding it was not in his power to do away with the substance of the charge, he has availed himself of some alleviating circumstances, in order, if possible, to lessen its aggravated circumstances,

Others of a bolder character have attempted to induce a disbelief of the charge, and, in order to mislead the jury, have directed their attention to what was never brought before them, and have raised a defence against what he never was accused of, that they might suppose from his innocence in the one case that he never was guilty in the other. This is the case, precisely, gentlemen, as it stands between you and the "Wiltshire Freeholder." Mr. Methuen, gentlemen, is not a candidate for the gallows, where all relations are dissolved, but for the high and distinguished honour of representing your county in Parliament—for a place of trust, and where the *honour* is *supposed* to be the *profit*. In the former case, every thing that can be said or done to save a criminal from his fate, consistently with the welfare of the public, and the rules of justice, may and ought to be done. The advocate deserves praise who gives a licence to his feelings and to his tongue in such a case. But, gentlemen, the case is widely different when a man comes forward and expects reward instead of punishment; when he expects you to confide your dearest interests into his hands; and when, in order to induce you to do so, desires you to look at his past conduct, and receive or reject him as you approve or disapprove of it; in such a case, gentlemen, the man who would impose upon you by *false* statements, who, in order to keep the true ones from your sight, would present you with some totally unconnected with the subject, in order to divert your minds from the proper subject of inquiry. When a man attempts to establish the innocence of a criminal, merely because he has not committed *all* crimes; when he requests you to pronounce him guiltless who stole your *sheep*, merely because it did not suit him to carry off the *hurdles* too, you must be convinced, gentlemen, that he has some other motive than the avowed one for introducing the subject; it is on purpose to prevent you from attaching importance to where your chief concern should be directed; it is to throw you off your guard, that you may the more easily become a prey to their devices.

Gentlemen, this is the plan of the Wiltshire Freeholder; he seems a *special* pleader in this way. You know perfectly well, gentlemen, that I said nothing about the *private* character of Mr. Methuen; I told you I *knew* nothing about it, and if I had known any thing derogatory to it, I should have been travelling out of my way, at all to have introduced it; whatever takes place in a man's own house, should evaporate through his own chimney, ascend, and disappear. I have no doubt but Mr. Methuen is a very respectable private gentle-

men, and had he *remained* a private gentleman, I should never have troubled my head with him. I am ready to believe in the testimony of the Freeholder, that he is *now* a very pious christian. I, nor you, had never any reason to believe otherwise, until this sagacious Freeholder comes to tell us the contrary. He tells us that his life was "*amended*."—For my part, gentlemen, I never heard or knew that it had been *wicked;* that it needed mending! "Do you call this backing a friend, Mr. Freeholder? a plague of such backing!" But suppose Mr. Methuen (now that he is *mended*) to be as pious, self-denied, as meek and lowly as he is represented; a most faithful husband, a loving father, a tender brother, a kind master, and so considerate a landlord that he rather pays rent to his tenants, than takes any from them; yet what has all this to do with it? there are hundreds of men in the city of Salisbury who are models of every virtue; there are thousands in the county; but would you not think them mad, gentlemen, if on that account they were to expect you to return them members of Parliament? On the score of private virtue, however, they are as much entitled to your vote as Mr. Methuen, or any other candidate. Mr. Methuen's private character (of which we *know nothing* but what this Freeholder says) was introduced to save a purpose; it was to take off the odium which his public one had excited. I never maligned his private character, never dreamt of it; it is the Freeholder who has done it; he brings him before you *mended;* some new cloth has been put into the old garment, and you may expect that the rent will shortly be made worse. He could not meet the charge, gentlemen, and he parries the thrust; he could not oppose a barrier to the current, and he strives to divert its course; he was afraid that when "the curtain" was fully drawn aside, the sight would appal you, and he smothers it in Corsham smoke!

Gentlemen, not content with styling me contemptible, and falsely accusing me with regard to Mr. Methuen's private character, he attempts to bring both me and my writings into disrepute, by ascribing *them* to Treasury influence, and *my conduct* to the same source. Now, gentlemen, I never saw the Treasury; I never that I know of spoke to a man, woman, or child, that had been within its walls; I am not the *hired* eulogist of any man; I am no benefice-hunting-hypocrite, who attends bible societies for electioneering purposes; I never in my life spoke to Mr. Wellesley, nor he to me; nor would my pen ever have been taken up in his cause, but for the unjust, unmanly, false and scandalous attack that

was made upon him by "Timothy Trueman," the Demon of Reading; a man who mistakes scurrility for truth, and boldness for patriotism; whose breath is the pestilence, and whose touch is poison! It was on this account alone, that I advocated the cause of Mr. Wellesley; and on comparing the three candidates for the county—the knowledge that Mr. Wellesley had been early thought not unworthy of being employed on important service;—that he afterwards by his presence of mind and heroism, rescued a great part of the English army from destruction at Vimiera; that in the House of Commons he has displayed a uniform steadiness of conduct and independence of mind;—and having, as Grattan observed in his celebrity Eulogy on Kirwan, "preferred our county to his own;"—I thought, and you will no doubt think justly, that he had a claim, if not paramount to every other Candidate, yet as good, and deserved the support of every man anxious for the honour of the county of Wilts.

I remain, Gentlemen, your's, &c.

TITUS TRUEMAN.

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*To the Editors of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

A LETTER in your Paper, signed W. W. Salmon, enables me to take this opportunity of publicly declaring, that which I have personally expressed to Mr. Salmon, that I believe him to be a gentleman of high honour and well merited professional reputation: I cannot, therefore, suppose him to be either the author or wilful propagator of a falsehood; but whoever be the person, who may venture to charge me with the use of "Treasury influence during my canvass, or with having threatened officers of the revenue with the displeasure of that board," is not only guilty of "idle insinuation," but of untruth.

I have heard of, and indeed seen, extracts of a suppressed publication; printed copies of which, I know have been confided to the care of a magistrate who formed a conspicuous feature in that notorious quorum which do not abandon either magisterial pomp or authority, during their canvass, in favour of one of the Candidates for the honour of representing the county of Wilts in Parliament.

This magistrate has been circulating, and continues (I believe privately) to circulate, this suppressed document,

If it charges me with using, or having endeavoured to use "Treasury influence," I call it forth to public light, and it shall from me, meet with public refutation.

As an officer of the revenue, Mr. Salmon has no right to know how Treasury influence may be employed. He may know, but I may probably care less than he does, who has the support of government. My agents have never had but *one* direction from me,—that of soliciting the suffrages of the freeholders for me as a truly independent man, who defies even Mr. Salmon himself to shew that he is not warranted in presenting himself before the county in *that character*.

Mr. Salmon intends, I presume, to convey to the public the impression, that he takes no part in that which he has been facetiously pleased to term "my contest."

When Mr. Salmon received from Mr. Tinney the packet which he accepted, and retained, but in preference to forwarding it to Mr. Tilby, paraded the streets of Devizes with one of the Candidates, he might possibly not have perused the following lines in Blackstone's Commentaries (which to use a common phrase makes a virtue of necessity): "If any Officer of the Excise, Customs, Stamps, or certain other branches of the revenue, presume to intermeddle in Elections, by persuading any voter, or dissuading him, he forfeits one hundred pounds, and is disabled to hold any office."

I am, gentlemen,

Your very humble servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Marlborough, April 17th*, 1818.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

IF the person who signs himself "An Independent Freeholder," in a letter just published, be a man of respectability, and will avow his real name, I pledge myself to prove, even to that gentleman, that he has been led into great errors with respect to the motives which have induced me to present myself before the county.

The letter thus signed, seems to me to proceed from the pen of a disinterested, moderate, though misinformed individual. I am therefore ready to give privately (which I should prefer to do publicly) all the information in my power relative to those inducements which have led me to aspire to

the honour of representing in Parliament the interests of this great county.

I am, gentlemen,
Your very humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Marlborough, April 17th*, 1818.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

A LETTER having been received by me from a person signing himself "An Old Independent Freeholder," enclosing a document entitled "a Card," I must decline inserting it in any public print, as it has for its object the proposing a question to Mr. Benett.

In answer, however, to this Independent Freeholder's letter to me (but not to his Card), I have no hesitation in saying I am well "inclined to church and state as by law established."

I am, gentlemen,
Your very humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Marlborough, April 17th*, 1818.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

I CONSIDER myself as the head of the oldest family in Wiltshire. I taught my children, from their earliest infancy, to be not less observant of their public duties than strenuous in maintaining the rights upon which the honour of our family depends. In open controversy we study to be mild and benignant, never to attack the private character of our opponent, and above all to avoid the language of asperity: but whenever our honest principles and the independence of our family are questioned, then we habitually put forth our mighty strength; our adversaries tremble when they witness the undaunted and invincible array with which we prepare to resist them.

Some person dares, in the postscript of a letter inserted in the last *Bath Chronicle*, and addressed to the freeholders of Wilts, to reflect upon our principles, and boasts that, though a native of Wiltshire, he is exempt from our *moon-raking propensities*.

What are the propensities which he would censure? Is it that in our choice of a representative we are likely to prefer a known Wiltshire gentleman, to a stranger born no one knows where; one who spends his life and fortune among us, to a gentleman whom we never saw till he came to solicit our votes; one who addresses us with the respect due to independent freeholders—to one who plainly tells us that he does not offer himself so much from *political motive* as from *the ambition of restoring* the representation to a family of which he is accidentally the chief.

In my last letter I described the pretensions upon which the unsuccessful candidate in the great contest of 1772, presented himself for our choice. If that gentleman had not been of Wiltshire blood; if he had not from his birth been connected with the county; if he had not been already in its service, and well known to many of us; if his family had not, during many ages, been resident among us, and intimately connected with us in interest and in duty, I cannot persuade myself that it would have entered into his imagination that he could *command* our suffrages at that election. Of all the advantages which I have enumerated he very properly availed himself; but he committed the fatal error of *claiming* the representation almost of right, as one of the hereditary honours of his house. It was that claim alone which offended the great body of the freeholders; they resented it as an insult, and indignantly rejected the gentleman who made it, regardless of the respectability and the opulence of his family, of the independence of his political principles, of his acknowledged personal qualifications, and of all other considerations.

The proud spirit of independence which we evinced on that ever-memorable day, regarded Mr. Goddard himself much less than the principles upon which his cause rested. We disdained to permit the triumph of those principles to depend upon his individual exertions; nor would we suffer the private fortune of our champion to be impaired by the expenses of the election. Whole troops of freeholders in every district, exulting in the common cause, spontaneously associated, and presented themselves at the poll at their own expense. Am I forty-six years afterwards to be assailed by reproachful language for recounting to my posterity the exertions and the glories of their forefathers? Am I for this cause accused before you, gentlemen, as a man of *moon-raking propensities*, and that by one who advocates the cause of a present candidate, and is not ashamed to style himself *a native* of the county?

If at the next general election in 1774, an unknown young gentleman, resident at a distance from us, who had accidentally married into one of our county families, had presented himself as a candidate in opposition to Mr. Goddard, not being himself of Wiltshire blood, merely as having married a Wiltshire heiress; if he had told us plainly that it was his ambition to restore to *the house* which he acquired by that marriage the honour of representing us, but that he had no political motive for requesting it; if he seemed to claim the representation as the dowry of his wife, which he might take up at any time like the freedom of a borough, without the form of previous residence, or the shew of personal qualification; if his friends boasted also of his large estate, acquired by the marriage, in this and in other counties; if he and his agents also boasted that, though unknown to the county, yet that he had the support of government, (one must presume exclusively;) and if he had confessed his surprise that those who were connected with the government should take part against him; let the natives imagine how we should at that time have expressed our indignation, and what decisive measures we should then have adopted to vindicate the independence of the county.

That one of the present candidates and his agents have asserted that he has the support of government, rests now upon the public uncontradicted testimony of Mr. W. W. Salmon, a gentleman who enjoys the confidence and esteem of every freeholder to whom he is known.

I wish that some intelligent person would explain what the candidate could have meant by mentioning that he had the support of government. Was it to terrify or to convert the freeholders for whose information it was intended? The men of Wiltshire are not easily to be intimidated; nor is their fidelity to the state to be doubted. Are any of them adverse to the happy establishment of the reigning family, or disposed to shake any one of the bulwarks of the constitution? Has any person who is adverse to that establishment and to those bulwarks presumed to present himself for their choice?—I expect an answer to these inquiries from some native of the county.

I do not believe that the present government would exert its influence in favour of any of our candidates; or that any one of them is more meritorious in the view of government than another; I trust that neither of them can be justly suspected of disaffection to the sovereign, or hostility to any of the principles of the constitution. If it be otherwise, let

the accusation be plainly made, that it may be plainly answered; but let it not be insinuated, till it is made, that political connection has rendered one candidate more loyal than his opponent, or that the present ministers would prostitute their power or their influence in favour of any candidate in direct violation of our undoubted privileges.

I take my leave of you at present, Mr. Editor, not doubting that the common cause of all the freeholders will be triumphant, and that the natives of Wiltshire will rejoice in the success of their native candidate.

I remain, Sir, your constant reader,

THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

*Swindon, April* 17, 1818.

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## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

THE friends of Mr. Long Wellesley have directed me respectfully to inform the public, that they intend dining at my house (the Castle Inn, Marlborough;) on Friday the 8th of May, at four o'clock.

THOMAS COOPER.

Tickets 5*s*. each, to be had at the principal Inns throughout the county.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

" Let independence o'er the day preside;
" Propitious power! my patron and my pride."

GENTLEMEN,

THE Salisbury Journal of yesterday contains a letter signed "The Old Moon-Raker," in which I am attacked in a very singular way. I believe I know the writer; and if I am right in my conjecture, thought I have only a slight acquaintance with, yet I have a great respect for him. I shall therefore reply to him with more courtesy than I would have exercised to almost any other man who had accused me so unjustly, and questioned me in such an authoritative way. I am accused of "assailing him with reproachful language," and "of accusing him as a man of moon-raking propensities;" also of "boasting to be myself exempt from such propensities." Now it happens that my letter was printed at Warminster on Friday the tenth of April; how then could it be "an attack on the principles" or "propensities" contained in

the letter of "An Old Moon-Raker," which was not published till the subsequent Sunday, and which I neither saw nor heard of till the Monday? As to my boasting of being exempt from moon-raking propensities, if my words have any meaning, they convey a sense precisely the reverse of that which is imputed to them:—read and judge—"I request your indulgence if I have betrayed any moon-raking propensities, relying on your partiality to excuse them, as I am, *bonâ fide*, A Native." So much for the truth and justice of these charges! I am well satisfied that "The Old Moon-Raker" is too honourable a man to have recourse to intentional misrepresentation; but by some means or other he has fallen into a great mistake; from which you may judge how easily the gossiping chit-chat among professional agents, as to Mr. Long Wellesley's threat of Treasury interference might have been misrepresented or misunderstood. As to moon-raking, I must confess I have no desire to share in the "glory" of it; at the same time, I have no objection to be ranked with the men of Cannings, who formerly mistook the moon for a skim cheese; but when they hold up to us a skim cheese, and insist on our taking it for the moon, I pity the weakness of their sight, and regret that they have not had recourse to spectacles, though I cannot consent to partake of their delusion. On the subject of independence, our ideas materially differ:—"The Old Moon-Raker," may perhaps approve the revival of "Club-Law," which for forty years kept our county in subjection;—he may possibly have an influence in the societies from which it emanated, and may feel his consequence abridged from *their* loss of power:—thus *his* partialities may be accounted for. But is this the sort of independence which you, the great body of freeholders, desire? Is there in this mode of election, such a freedom of choice as unprejudiced persons would deem satisfactory? Do you wish to resume the trammels from which Mr. Methuen released you? Will you sit down quietly and see half a dozen self-delegated persons appoint your two Representatives in parliament? It cannot be, I have no secret person to answer:—Let who will be your representative, I shall get nothing by your choice;—I show you where the danger lies, that you may preserve your independence; if, however, you prefer another forty years of Egyptian bondage, I shall not disturb you in it;—"Let the dog return to his vomit, and the sow to her wallowing in the mire." Perhaps you are not aware how the election used to be conducted,—I will tell you;—When Mr. Goddard resigned, the club at Beckhamp-

ton met;—two young men of large landed estate happened to be present, but not being then duly initiated, were dismissed from the room;—the doors were closed on the Dons and big-wigs;—they continued for some time in close divan; till at length Mr. Richard Long was announced as the new member for the county, and was returned accordingly. If such were the effects resulting from the glorious struggle of 1772, in such glorious struggles I have no ambition to participate.

I belong to no political party; for I have lived long enough to see, that though the different parties in the state use such a jargon of words towards each other, as may be best suited to their relative situations, yet when they get into power, there is but little difference in their actions. I am satisfied that let who will be minister, he will never dare to attempt any infringement of our liberties; on this ground I consider we have nothing to fear. But I wish to see my brother freeholders sheltered from the over-bearing influence of the "proud man dressed in a little brief authority," which has been lately exercised on their very thresholds. I am as much attached to the land we live in, and have as high a spirit of independence, as "The Old Moon-Raker," or any of those who are so clamorous in their opposition to Mr. Long Wellesley. I am not indeed a great landholder; nor have I fattened on a good place; nor am I manœuvring for a *receivership*. I am only a poor freeholder, and in breeding up a large family, have submitted cheerfully to great privations; but (except in the interchange of neighbourly civilities) I never in my life asked a favour of any man. The contest in 1772 forms no parallel with the present; *then*, two or three peers, with the Lord-Lieutenant at their head, attempted to impose on the county a man who was undoubtedly most respectable, but always unpopular.—The combination *now* existing is of another description; it consists of a knot of

"Petty tyrants, whose scant domains geographer ne'er noticed;"

some of whom have been canvassing for Mr. Wellesley's opponent with the confident air of magisterial authority. Mr. L. Wellesley is supported by the Long family, as might naturally be expected; but they have not the wish, nor do they pretend to the power, of forcing a representative on the county. Mr. John Long did not give his support to Mr. Wellesley, till he was convinced of his independence, and of his fitness in every respect to represent us in parliament. Mr. Richard Long has such reasons for his opposition to Mr. Benett, as would determine any man placed in similar

circumstances. The opposition to Mr. Long Wellesley is waspish, petulant, overbearing. Mr. Benett is a very respectable man; I do not dispute it. I have no wish to discuss his merits. But I cannot for my life discover that he has any of those high-flying pretensions which his friends calculated would annihilate Mr. Long Wellesley's expectations at a blow. Mr. Long Wellesley had been represented to me in the most odious light; all bad qualities without a single good one to redeem them; consequently a most unfavourable impression was produced on my mind. Chance gave me an opportunity of inquiring into his character as a husband, which had been particularly censured. I found it to be exemplary, and perfectly satisfactory to the person most interested. On other points the farther I have inquired, the more reason I have seen for approving him. His opponents have traduced and vilified him in the grossest way; persons in authority have obtained votes against him by asserting that he is an Irishman; and by private scandal which I will not disgrace myself by repeating. He is declared to be unfit to represent the county, because he did not in his first address bluster about independence; and is to be disfranchised for the equivocal wording of an advertisement. I have talked to and questioned him;—I have inquired of those who know him well, and I firmly believe him to be a man of the strictest independence. That he has faults like other men, there is no doubt; he does not pretend to be *more*, and he does not intend to pass for less than a man. (*"Homo sum; humani nihil à me alienum puto."*) If my notions of independence are incorrect, let them be controverted. For Mr. Long Wellesley personally, I feel no other interest than a wish to see justice done to his character, which has been most shamefully abused. I have not promised to vote for him; nor have I solicited a single vote in his favour. I advise you now as I did in my former letter, "do not suffer yourselves to be hood-winked;" "open your eyes, and see" on which side the exercise of overbearing influence is attempted; compare the two candidates; sift them well, examine their qualifications, and take him that is most likely to do honour to your choice. In conclusion, I repeat my former observation—I respect the gentleman who signs himself "An Old Moon-Raker;" but I shall not be intimidated. In defending myself, I have made use of those weapons which "time and chance" presented to me; I shall also do the same on any similar occasion in future.

I remain, gentlemen, your faithful friend,

A NATIVE.

*To the Independent Electors of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

HOWEVER averse I may be from thus obtruding myself on your notice, it is the opinion of my friends that I am imperiously called on to do so, by the publication of a hand-bill, addressed to you, under the signature of Mr. Long Wellesley, and circulated in the couse of the last week; inasmuch as that hand-bill has been construed, by many persons, into a charge against me of being the author of a *false report.*

If in the circulation of the report to which Mr. Wellesley alludes, there has been any misrepresentation, it has not proceeded from me—I am now only anxious to shew that I have not made, or authorised, any statement which is not warranted by facts.

For the vindication, therefore, of my own character, and in deference to the opinion of my friends, I am indueed to trouble you with a detail of the circumstances which have given rise to the report, of which Mr. Long Wellesley complains, and in which I shall endeavour to be as concise as possible.

Previous to the last Assizes, I, as well as many of my friends, promised support to Mr. Benett, as a Candidate to represent the county; and at his request I personally introduced him to many of my neighbours in Devizes, but without asking for, or in any manner attempting to influence a single vote; and all this was done before any other candidate had offered.

If I was thus enabled to do a service to Mr. Benett, I am indebted for it solely to the mutual good will which subsists between me and my neighbours; for I thus publicly assert that I never in the slightest manner attempted, directly or indirectly, to avail myself of any influence, which my holding an office under government might be *supposed* to give; knowing that such an attempt, if made, would have been improper.

Little as I had done, however, I had soon reason to believe that Mr. Wellesley was displeased.—During the Assizes, I was told, by a very respectable friend who is one of Mr. Wellesley's professional agents, that Mr. Wellesley said to him, "I have the support of government; and you may tell every one so."—And after asking if he knew Mr. Salmon? and being answered in the affirmative, Mr. Wellesley added, "Tell him I have seen his friend Lord Sidmouth, and that I have been to the Treasury, and have taken care of him there:" or words to that effect.

Indignant at this message, I personally remonstrated with Mr. Wellesley, who disclaimed any offensive intention, and

declared that he meant a *caution* and not a *threat.* In explanation of this he told me that he had been at the Treasury, and was promised support; that he was asked who was his agent at Devizes, and that he lamented he could not have *my* services, for that I was assisting Mr. Benett;—on which it was observed that I ought not to interfere; and it was a *caution,* in consequence of this observation, which he wished to communicate.

On my return from Salisbury, however, I was informed of various expressions used by *another* of Mr. Wellesley's agents, which confirmed my first impression, that more had been intended than an unnecessary *caution;* and in particular, a gentleman (on whose accuracy I fully rely) informed me that *the agent alluded to* had asserted to him *on the 11th instant,* that Mr. Wellesley had shewn him a letter from Mr. Arbuthnot, one of the Secretaries to the Treasury, enclosing a copy of a letter which he (Mr. A.) had written to me.

After receiving this intelligence, I though it right to communicate all the circumstances to a friend, for the purpose of making some inquiry of Mr. Arbuthnot on the subject: That friend has since furnished me with a letter written to him, by Mr. Arbuthnot *(dated the 14th inst.)* in which he says that "it is *perfectly true* that Mr. Wellesley called upon him, and did object to my conduct on account of my interference in an election;" adding that "it was *not true* that he had written to Mr. Long Wellesley on the subject, or that as yet he had written to him at all; and that there never was a thought of calling me to account for my proceedings."

Having thus stated the facts which occurred, I must leave you, gentlemen, to form your own conclusions.

I assure you that it is with great reluctance that I have thus trespassed on your patience:—And I remain, gentlemen, With every sentiment of respect, your very faithful servant,

*Devizes, 27th March,* 1818. W. W. SALMON.

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

WHEN I addressed to you the letter inserted in your paper of the 16th instant, I expressed myself with a moderation which I had hoped would have secured me from any further attack, and I therefore declared that I should not again intrude myself on the public.

Mr. Long Wellesley, however, seems determined to drag me into notice; and although the address to the freeholders

which I had suppressed, may not contain the precise charge which he mentions, yet as he calls it into public light, I feel bound to answer the call, and accordingly now send it for your insertion.

In this address I have stated Facts, leaving it to others to reason on them.—The message which I there mention to have received may be explained to others (as it has been to me) to be "altogether a joke." The other circumstances may also be explained away as Mr. Wellesley chooses—I care not how —nor with what success; but, to retort his own words—whoever may venture to contradict a single fact asserted by me, on my own knowledge in this paper "is guilty of untruth."

No such private circulation of this document as Mr. Wellesley mentions, can possibly have taken place.—It is true that I gave a *single copy* to a few of my friends (in which term I feel proud to reckon many of the "Quorum") and amongst others to one gentleman, who is also a friend of Mr. Wellesley, and whose interference was a chief cause of the circulation being stopped. Thus far and no farther, was the circulation authorised by me.

Mr. Wellesley says that I have *no right* to know how Treasury influence may be employed. I repeat that, on the present occasion, I do not believe that it has been employed at all. Mr. Wellesley may explain, if he pleases, what is meant by a candidate's having "the support of the government."—I know not, and it is no part of my duty to inquire.

As to Mr. Wellesley's boasted independence, as I have not attacked it, so I have no inclination to accept the defiance offered me. Let him have the full benefit of the character to which he lays claim; I only claim, on my part, to be considered as an independent man, who knows the duties imposed on him by every station which he may fill; and who, whilst he acts according to those duties, is resolved not be intimidated by any one.

I am glad that I unconsciously, furnished cause for merriment by my *facetiousness*; and I earnestly hope that the county at large will have no reason to consider the term 'Contest' in a more serious light.

Had I, in Mr. Wellesley's elegant phrase, "paraded the streets of Devizes" *with him*, he would perhaps have considered the quotation from Blackstone's Commentaries, with which he has favoured my ignorance, to have been unnecessary. It is, however, somewhat remarkable that a legislator should refer to an elementary book, as authority for that which can only be law by the enactments of particular Acts of Par-

liament. As I happen to have perused the celebrated author in question, and referred to the statutes which can alone support his position, long before I knew Mr. Wellesley, I do not need the hint (whether it be a *menace* or a *caution*) which he has in this manner conveyed.

Whatever part I may think proper to take on this or any other occasion, I shall neither be ashamed nor afraid to avow it.

Hoping that I shall have no further call to occupy the columns of your paper,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

*Devizes, April 20th*, 1818. W. W. SALMON.

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WHEREAS I have been credibly informed that Mr. Benett and his agents have in their canvass for this county, made use of my name in a way which has urged me to give the following *true* statement of what has passed between Mr. Benett and myself, respecting Enford Farm, in vindication of my credit and reputation, as well as to deny the false and untrue statements Mr. B. and his agents have made so public:—In the year 1815, I made repeated applications to Mr. B. that I could not hold his farm without a reduction of rent; and that I hoped he would not deceive me, after the declaration he had made to me and my friends at the time of taking the farm, and so often repeated since, that if the farm would not do, he would make it. The only answer I could get, was, that he would abate no rent; but if I chose I might give up my lease. I called on my brother-in-law, Mr. Eden, of Poulshott, on the 24th of July, 1816, to accompany me to the Bear Inn, Devizes, to meet Mr. B. and try if I could get some allowance. We accordingly met Mr. B. and after stating to him the money I had sunk, and was daily sinking, I hoped he would consider and make good his repeated promises. His reply was, "I am well aware, Fisher, that you cannot pay the rent in times like the present, except it is out of your property, as the farm will not more than pay the taxes and expenses! but as the farm has been made of so much notoriety, I will not abate my rent." I then said, as I had been at so much expense in improving the farm, and particularly in the hawlage in making the new water meadow, I did not like to leave it, and would take it at a valuation of two persons. He said, "No; he knew how to value, and no persons should value for him." I then offered to take it at a corn rent; he replied, "he did not

like corn rents; and that if he could not get the present rent, he would make lark leases of it, as he could not stock it himself." Mr. Eden then said, if that is the case, Mr. Fisher, you had better give up your lease, which I immediately did. Now, in reply to the false assertions made against my credit, by saying I owed Mr. B. £5000, I have to state that when the first three half year's rent became due, I had to pay Mr. B. as follows:—at the close of the 1st half year, the sum of £38 10*s.* 5*d.* instead of £630.; at the close of the 2d, £377 10*s.* 2*d.* instead of £630.; and £149 6*d.* at the close of the third, instead of £630.; when I overpaid him £74 6*s.* 3*d.* which Mr. B. did not return, but kept it towards the next half year's rent; although I was continually paying tradesmen's bills, for alterations, and his gamekeeper's wages; so that I was paying my rent the first two years before it became due.—About three weeks before the above meeting, I gave Mr. B. a joint note at four months for £1000, which with my account for money paid for expenses, nearly paid my rent to Michaelmas following; and Mr. B. was to fix an early day to go over Mr. John Hayward's valuation again (though Mr. B. had agreed before that Mr. H. should do for both) when what balance was due to Mr. B. was to be paid; but I did not hear any thing more till the 19th of December. I then received a letter from Mr. Benett's attorney, requesting me to remit him £500, as Mr. B. said there was a considerable balance still due. I therefore sent my account, and £196 6*s.* 5*d*½. (being the full balance of my rent till Michaelmas) saying, at the same time, that at Lady-day, when the other half-year's rent became due, it should be paid. On the 1st of April, 1817, Mr. Eden, with my attorney and myself, met Mr. Benett's agent at the Deptford Inn, where a final settlement of my debt to Mr. Benett was made; and the balance £694 13*s.* was paid, though not due till the 6th of that month. I am thus particular, as I understand Mr. B. did make out a very false statement of my account with him, and handed it about among his friends, in which he debited me, perhaps to the imaginary amount he and his agents have promulgated. But what will the public think, when I tell them I have not yet received the amount for part of clover seed sown at Mr. B.'s request; or for fixtures valued to him on the premises when I left. I must also observe on the liberality of Mr. B. that before I took the farm, he employed the going-off tenant to plough the land in the usual course, and I paid for work done by Mr. Pocock upwards of £500. What was the case on

my going off? Why Mr. B. would not suffer me to plough an acre, unless I would do it at 9s. per acre, which every farmer knows could not be done. I, however, offered to do it at any person's valuation, rather than my horses should lay still, which was also refused.

*Allcannings, April 21.* JOHN FISHER.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

"A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back."
*Solomon.*

"Forty stripes save one, but that one the heaviest of them all."

GENTLEMEN,

You will recollect, that in the letter which I first addressed to you, I endeavoured to bring before you the several Candidates for your representation, and the grounds on which they severally rested their pretensions. Your present member founding his claim upon the line of conduct he had pursued in Parliament; Mr. Benett, upon his knowledge of the local interests of the county, and upon that independence of mind which he had ever manifested; the third, Mr. Long Wellesley, upon his large interest in your soil, and upon his having supported from a consciousness of their propriety, those principles which you have ever made the criterion of your choice in returning your representatives.

The conduct of your present member, Mr. Methuen, having been proposed by himself for your consideration, to make that conduct the subject of discussion, was but fulfilling the wishes of Mr. Methuen himself; he called for investigation; he put himself upon his trial; the appeal was made to you, gentlemen, who in this case unite in yourselves the important functions, both of the juror and the judge.

The inquiry had no sooner commenced than one of his agents denominated the mode of conducting it, "contemptible," ascribed the proceeding to "improper influence," and its design to an object, which never came within the compass of his (the writer's) imagination. Having disposed of the two former charges in my last letter, I can with as much ease, and with equal truth, set the other also at rest. "The object," says this lynx-eyed freeholder, "is clearly to effect a coalition between Mr. Benett and Mr. Long Wellesley, and to *turn out* Mr. Methuen." Now, gentlemen, you know that is as much out of your power as out of mine to *turn out* Mr. Methuen. *Turning out* belongs to a much higher authority than you or I will ever possess; it belongs to the sceptre,

not to the pen—to the will and pleasure of the sovereign, not to the voice of the electors, to turn out your member. When he is turned *out*, gentlemen, there will be nobody *in*; it will be at your pleasure whether he should be sent back to his place, or remain in the situation in which a dissolution of Parliament will place him, along with all the other members of the House of Commons. Though you cannot turn him out, you can keep him out, should his conduct in Parliament have been such as you cannot approve; or should a disregard of the interests, or the principles, of those who sent him first to Parliament, have formed any feature of his public conduct. You will recollect, gentlemen, that I said it had; I noticed the instances of it; I could have adduced proof in support of it; I have been saved the trouble by his apologist, who not possessing the faculty of knowing (and it is difficult in an intricate case) what to secrete, or what to reveal, has therefore presented for your applause, what can only merit your censure. Instead of replying to what I had asserted, he waves it; but in defence of his friend discloses something which you or I had never dreamt of, and which goes farther in establishing the political turpitude of Mr. Methuen than even his most zealous opponents could have desired. It is, however, his method of "backing a friend," and we ought to "compliment him on his judgment in selecting" the mode.

I told you, gentlemen, in my first letter, of the attempt at popularity which was made by Mr. Methuen on his first appearance in the House of Commons, by reviving a subject which had undergone the fullest consideration; and the renewal of which presented no prospect of advantage to the party most deeply interested. Unfortunately for him, his *début* gave no indications of growing excellence; but, on the contrary, it displayed an ignorance of forms, a vacuity of judgment, and an absence of that eloquence which can alone impress the listless, and subdue the obstinate. It was a subject, however, which always occasioned the mover to be noticed; there was not a tea-table where the gossips had not something to say about Mr. Methuen; some commending his pity, others his zeal, and all of them lamenting that his folly should have secured the failure of the chivalrous attempt!—he in fact became the shuttlecock of the company, flying with the feathers of others; kept in motion by the tongues of the busy and the trifling, and who, whether about something or nothing, must be always in motion. The love of fame is an universal passion; and we cannot but grieve that Mr. Methuen, in his pursuit after it, unfortunately mistook the road,

In his conduct on this occasion there was something foolish; his apologist, however, the "Wiltshire Freeholder," has turned it into *crime!*—"He defended her," says his friend, "whom in his *conscience* he honestly believed to be an injured princess." What a *libel* is this, gentlemen, on Mr. Methuen! or else, what a *conscience* must he have, even when acting *honestly!* In the course of a few days, gentlemen, you will find that he joined those very ministers, whom in his "conscience he honestly" believed to be the oppressors of that "injured princess!" Call you this a backing of your friends, Mr. Freeholder? "A plague of such backing!"

Gentlemen, I have said that it was in a few days that Mr. Methuen's conscience became a little more accommodating, though nothing to warrant such an assertion appeared before the public till now; his apologist, the "Wiltshire Freeholder," has placed the matter beyond the possibility of a doubt. The first time that that gentleman appeared before the public after his *maiden* attempt, was as before stated in seconding the address to the Regent, the very person whom his former motion was intended to vilify and degrade.—Now you find him all devotion, all wonder, gratitude, and love; ready to exclaim with the old German scullion of George the Second, "*My master be de bestest prince in de known vorld!*" Now, gentlemen, it would be trifling with you, were I to attempt by reasoning to convince you that these remarkable changes do not take place in a moment; there must be some preliminary steps, some little arrangement, a little backing of the waggon before you can make a complete turn. And so it was here: Mr. Methuen made overtures to the ministers, offered to become their most obedient, faithful, and devoted servant; and, in the case to which I have referred, actually appeared as such. I do not like Brougham nor his principles; but I wish every Wiltshire freeholder to read his memorable speech on that occasion; it is above all price to you, gentlemen, on the *present* occasion; it lays open to your view what ought never to be concealed—the motives which influence the conduct of a public servant. Paul heard it; it produced a change; it turned him into Felix—*he "trembled;"* and as soon as he found a "*convenient season*" he gave Mr. Brougham to understand, that if he would promise not to chastise him any more, he would desert his masters, and become for ever and a day *his* most obedient and faithful servant! Ah! the rod makes good children! And Paul, rather than undergo another castigation, determined to forego the hope of *place*, the more distant one of

*pension*, and the still more remote prospect of *title*. Title! ay! title! And why not? *Lord Methuen, of Corsham, in the county of Wilts!* What a dash! "Things childish please the child;" but Mr. Brougham's speech compelled Paul to think himself a man, and to "put away childish things." Certain it is, that in two or three days after he had appeared as the addresser of the Prince Regent, on the Treasury Bench, and in the ranks of ministers, he went to the "right (excuse the phrase, it should be to the *wrong*) about," and joined the standard of their opponents! Now, gentlemen, we come to the point—you shall have it in the "Wiltshire Freeholder's own words: "For thus *daring* (what a *dreadful daring!*) to emancipate himself from the shackles with which ministers flattered themselves they had bound him," &c. Now, gentlemen, attend carefully to these expressions; they are of importance to you at the present time, especially as coming from the apologist of Mr. Methuen. You know, gentlemen, although there is balloting on land when they want to recruit the militia, although there is *pressing* on land and water when they want seamen, there are no such things as press warrants issued in St. Stephen's chapel. He must be a volunteer; there is no such thing as dragging in by the hair of the head; and I won't allow the devil to be blamed for it; I have better authority: "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his *own* lust," &c. It was so in this case. I have scarce patience to look at it!—"Bound with shackles! flattered themselves they had bound him!" Then he had put his feet in the stocks! he had ran his head through the collar! they could not force him against his will to be bound! before his indentures were signed; does his famed apologist mean to say that he had not his *month on liking?* How could they bind him, unless he had first bound himself? How could ministers *flatter* themselves that they had bound him, unless *he* had first *flattered them* into a belief of it? The only way which he can save him (and a pretty way it is) is by asserting that he flattered ministers into a belief that he would be their most obedient humble servant, in order that he might afterwards *betray* them! This was his object in putting on the shackles according to the Wiltshire Freeholder, and this he calls a *defence of Mr. Methuen!* "Is this thy kindness to thy friend? Call you this a backing of your friends? a plague upon such backing!" Who is the Marplot now? The observations I had made in my first letter had only in view the *public* conduct of Mr. Methuen, what was above board; nothing that had happened under the

table; I referred only to public acts, never to "secret negociations;" and you, Mr. Marplot, officiously step forward, "like a blockhead, and let the cat out of the bag, by telling what I am bound to suppose you believe to be the real truth."

Gentlemen, I defy the "Wiltshire Freeholder" to prove that Ministers ever made an overture to Mr. Methuen; it was on his part that the overture was made; had they enlisted him in their service, they would have taken care to have secured him; they don't play so uncertain a game; they are birds of too old a feather to be caught with chaff! They never thought Mr. M. worth their while: I tell you now what I told you before, that, "his talents never awakened fear."—His conduct originated with himself; it was all a free-will offering; he put the collar on himself; "he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant to tribute." But disappointed in his expectations, he hitches the burthen off, and begins kicking at what he had solicited to carry. Brougham had applied his beak and his spurs so successfully, that our Wiltshire bantam started, and when pursued and overtaken, he most manfully thrusts his head under the wing of his conqueror, where it has since remained, and the only privilege that is allowed him (in order that his friend may know that he is alive, and where he may be found) is now and then to poke his head out from among the feathers, and crow "*hear! hear!*" This gentleman is the candidate who now solicits on the grounds of such conduct your support at the ensuing election.

You will mistake me very much, gentlemen, if you suppose that in objecting to Mr. Methuen's conduct in the House of Commons, I mean to impress on your minds, that there cannot be a virtuous opposition to the measures of any government: I am far, very far from it; I am far from supposing that any government is infallible; "to err is human," and the liability of man to err as an individual, is communicated by him to the society of which he becomes a member; and though there is less danger of a deviation from rectitude in large bodies; though "in the midst of counsellors there is wisdom;" yet there are also prejudices, a diversity of views, and of feelings corresponding with those views. That in such a society division and opposition should arise is evident; it is connected with its operations; it is the foundation of its character; it is a proof of its integrity; it is essential to its existence. This opposition, however, ceases to be a *good* and becomes an *evil*, the instant that it is rendered subservient to party influence and intrigue; it ceases

to be *honest* the moment it is reduced to a *system*; for however important to the interests of the country any measure may be in itself, it is held but as an object of minor importance, when compared with the quarter from whence it comes, or with the person who proposes it; and though essential to the best interests of the state, these and these alone are sufficient to secure to it the most decided opposition. It is the triumph of party, not of principle, that is the first motive in all such associations; it is the attempt at ascendancy, rather than the good of the country, which governs their deliberations.—Faction is the worst of tyrants; its bonds are strengthened by numbers, and rivetted by example. The moment a man enters their ranks he becomes a slave; he ceases to be free: and were his country proposed as the sacrifice, the victim must be offered at their shrine. To prate after this of *independence* is a mockery; it is compromised, surrendered! A greater insult cannot be offered to you, gentlemen, than to address you with the *name* when the *thing* itself is gone! "Independent Freeholders of Wilts!" where are you to look for your independence? It lies prostrate at the feet of a party to whose principles you are avowedly hostile! Yet it is sounded in your ears by the very man who caused its degradation, and as if you were lost to every sense of honour or consistency, comes forward shameless to solicit your sanction to the deed! He has sunk you to the level of beasts, and transferred you without troubling himself about your *will* and *pleasure!*

But, gentlemen, as a set-off against all this, Mr. Methuen's *accuser*, (for that name he deserves much more than an apologist) brings forward his opposition to the Corn Bill. With me, gentlemen, this was always a very equivocal proof of patriotism; in fact, no proof at all; and if unaccompanied by any ulterior proceedings, a substantial proof of hypocrisy. Let us examine a little the state of the question:—By the return of peace, the consumption of grain was necessarily diminished, by the suspension of contracts and other causes, leaving in the hands of the farmers a surplus, which they were under the necessity of disposing of in the markets at a price lower than they could possibly raise it, or of keeping it by them until it was spoiled or devoured by vermin. The average price of the markets through the importation of foreign grain became so low, that the farmers found that without the legislature extended their protection to them they must be ruined. There was but one alternative: either a law must be passed to prevent the importation of grain, or the *land-*

*owners must lower their rents.*—Had the land-owners done this, there would have been no necessity for the introduction of the corn bill; and you will agree with me, gentlemen, that this would have certainly been the most equitable and the most easy, the most efficacious and the most grateful expedient that could have been proposed. But no, this was not to be done. A bill was therefore brought into parliament, which, stript of all its trappings, was nothing more or less, than a bill to enable the farmers to pay the landlords the exorbitant demands they made upon them. Now, gentlemen, I know that Mr. Methuen opposed this bill; but if he and the other landholders in the house had set the laudable example of lowering their estates so as the farmer could make a living for himself, and put by a trifle for age or sickness; or if on the passing of the bill, they had refused the large rents, which their tenants had in consequence become better able to pay, saying "No, we will not take advantage of your security from the foreign farmer to oppress you at home, but knowing as by this measure you will be enabled to live, we intend by lowering our rents to convince the world that we mean the poor to live too." Had this been the language and the conduct of the opposers of the bill, I would have said that their opposition was *honest;* but as this was not the case, it was nothing but party prate; they opposed in a body what they were individually pleased with; and not one half of those who joined the opposition would have voted against it, but they trembled at passing through Palace Yard! But whether this were the case or not, their subsequent conduct shewed that in heart they approved of it; the act of parliament had not tainted the money; two guineas looked better than one, they weighed heavier and went farther. As it is upon Mr. Methuen's conduct in this instance, that my friend the Wiltshire Freeholder grounds his claim to the affectionate regards of the freeholders of Wilts, I must, in reply, make an observation fatal to the claim: In continuing to demand the increased rent from his farmer, and opposing in parliament the only measure calculated to relieve him, he was guilty of great injustice on the one hand, and if he did not on the immediate passing of the bill lower his rents to the price of grain, he was guilty of oppression and inhumanity on the other. These, gentlemen, are the Jachin and Boaz of his patriotism; at least, the "Wiltshire Freeholder" says so, and is stupid enough to suppose that by inscribing upon them "No Corn Bill," will atone for all his political delinquencies, while that forms one of the greatest. The very measure itself, obnoxi-

ous as the party represented it to be, originated with the landholders of which he was one; and strange to tell he lays claim to universal support because he has been guilty of a local oppression. Could this have been said of Mr. Wellesley, what an outcry we should have heard; we should have had all the learning and all the talents of all the Quorumites busy in writing, printing, and publishing hand-bills, sticking them on the walls, pushing them under doors that would not open to receive them, and their friend Fulwar, dear Fulwar, would be *advertising!* But no, they have lost all this sport! Honourable testimony is borne to Mr. Wellesley's consideration and care—and what a phalanx! Shew such a band, Mr. Freeholder, if you can! They come forward to give evidence to Mr. Wellesley's method of opposing the corn bill; he did it practically, he wished to render it unnecessary, by reducing the rents of his farmers, putting it into their power to live, and into ours to live by them. I know that what I am asserting is true; I have seen them and conversed with them, and no man can stand higher in the estimation of all who are connected with him, by whatever ties, than Mr. Wellesley.

Mr. Methuen's conduct with regard to the Income Tax is next brought forward by his apologist, in proof of his patriotism; but with me, gentleman, in that scale it does not weigh a feather. Patriotism is unconnected with every thing selfish or sinister. Every friend of the minister that voted for the repeal, knew that he would increase his income by so doing.—Mr. Methuen's party knew, that while they increased their incomes, they would also embarrass the administration, and compel them in some way or another to violate their engagements, and prevent the designs they had formed for the gradual return to society of those who had been employed in the service of their country. The consequence is, that hordes of men thus thrown at once upon the world, have returned to your towns and villages, and the poor man who rents a cottage of ten pounds value per annum, is assessed to maintain them; and from the lawful, though rigid exaction of the rates, many have been compelled from having paid them to go and live upon them! The repealers have put the income tax into their own pockets, and they have levied it on the little farmer and the mechanic in the shape of poor rates. Had Mr. Methuen and the rest of them lowered their rents to the amount of the income tax, and thus have enabled the farmer to pay his proportion of rate with more ease, and increase the allowance of the indigent, I would

have chimed in with the "Wiltshire Freeholder;" but as this is a blessing in *reversion*, I shall say no more about it at present. Mr. Wellesley's father is one of the king's ministers, and interested in the existence of the tax, as far as respected the measures of government. Mr. Wellesley, the worthy candidate for the county, on that occasion, divided against his father. For the reasons I have stated, I should have liked him just as well if he had divided with him. But his conduct elicited a most convincing proof of the independence of his mind; and shewed that there may be such a thing as independence of mind even on the Treasury Bench, although the *Talents* have been so infatuated as to imagine that they have monopolized the whole cargo. If they could persuade you, gentlemen, into a belief of this, their delusion would attain its height; folly would resolve itself into frenzy, and the business of a mountebank become a reality. Mr. Wellesley's conduct on the repeal is a precedent against them, and ought to be cherished by you as a strong proof of the independence of his mind, and shews how far removed he is from any thing selfish or slavish in his principles or pursuits. Here the ties of blood, the bonds of friendship, the habits of social intercourse, were all insufficient to divert him from the straight line of his duty. However my views and Mr. Wellesley's may differ with respect to the repeal, I shall ever admire his conduct in this instance. His was a vote, not dictated by party, but in direct opposition to those persons with whom he was connected by every tie, social and relative, and who held in their hands every thing that avarice or ambition could desire. If this be the way in which Mr. Wellesley has secured what the Quorum of the plains, call "*the interest of Government*," it has been done in a way honourable to both—to him who receives it, to those who confer it. You will agree with me, gentlemen, however, that it is a *new* way of soliciting favours; but great minds look only at noble actions; Mr. Wellesley's was of this kind, and his vote was lost in the admiration of the principle that produced it.

Gentlemen, within these few weeks, "the interest of Government" has been bandied about as if there was something hellish in the sound, something monstrous in the meaning. It is thought disgraceful for a candidate to refer to it; a sufficient cause of opposition to his interest, that he should be possessed of that. Gentlemen, it is thought no disgrace for a candidate to be truckling to a county magistrate, though perhaps a parson without a parish, or a squire without an inch of land, but what is to be found in his garden pots! Yet

it is highly honourable to be seen bending the body, and twisting the mouth, to ask such a thing for his support; but dare to mention "the interest of Government," they are in full cry after you in a moment, and this too in the ultra-loyal county of Wilts; and that too amongst the Quorumites, the Clubites, the addressers of Devizes, tax-gatherers, tax-eaters, and all the fraternity. Supposing to the fullest extent that Mr. Wellesley has the interest of Government; are those actions which are common in every other connection in life to be disavowed in this, namely a preference to those we know and esteem? Can it be thought strange if Government should support Mr. W. his own father being one of the ministers? Is there any thing strange in the thing itself? Yes! not merely strange, I should almost be inclined from the outcry made against it to believe that there was something in it that excited the strongest feelings of horror and disgust. They start at the very name as if it were a spectre rising from the tomb, and turn up the whites of their eyes, as Scroggins did when he first beheld an illuminated turnip! But if the government of a country be deserving of the esteem and reverence of the people, its support must be an honour, and ought to be a passport to the hearts of all who are attached to it. I know not whether Mr. W. has it or not; I know it is not the foundation of his claim. It is the praise of a good servant to come well recommended; a good man ought to have the support of the good; I hope most sincerely that Mr. Wellesley will enjoy the utmost advantage of it. To see magistrates, public functionaries, commanders, parsons, those very men who were to spend the last shilling of their fortunes, and the last drop of their bloods to support the government of the country, stand up and oppose a man, and that merely because they suppose that he is identified with it, is one of those solecisms in politics which I am utterly unable to solve.

Because I ventured to mention the names of two persons in whose hands I thought the representation of your county would be respectable and safe, the "Wiltshire Freeholder" discovers that my "object is to effect a coalition between them." Now, gentlemen, such a thing never entered my mind. I merely stated the qualifications which I thought they severally possessed and left you to form your judgments as you pleased. I certainly wish well to Mr. Benett; I think he is a decided man; I think he would act steadily; I should wish to see him succeed against Mr. Methuen, but not against Mr. Wellesley. The name of Wellesley—the

character—and above all the unmerited ill treatment he has received, for doing what was in itself not only lawful but laudable and praiseworthy, binds me to his interests. Besides I have been informed that magisterial influence has been exerted, and is now exerting to secure the return of Methuen and Benett as members of the bench! Well as I like Mr. Benett, and much as I wish him success when opposed to Mr. Methuen, I love the county better, and would sooner see the bench broken than I would see Mr. Benett or any man so far compromise the character of the county as to accept of their services. I most sincerely hope that the report is untrue; but this will let you see by the bye, gentlemen, how much I wished a coalition to take place between Mr. Wellesley and Mr. Benett. I spoke in general terms of their several qualifications, I cordially wished them success, and simple Simon could see nothing in this but a coalition! as if two carriages could not run abreast without being tied together!! You therefore see, gentlemen, that the great object which the "Wiltshire Freeholder" discovered in my letter, made no part of my object; while in attempting to defend Mr. Methuen, he has most completely failed in his. He admits it in the very commencement of his letter; for he styles my address to you a curious composition! He did this, gentlemen, to form a distinction between my letter to you, and his to the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette, which you will very easily discover is by no means a curious composition, the praise of being so belonging exclusively to mine. Now what renders a thing curious? I'll tell you, it is accuracy; and if in this respect my letter be curious, pray what occasion had the "Wiltshire Freeholder" to trouble you at all? If he had not told you that it was so, I have endeavoured now to prove it, and from his own words have established the political turpitude of Mr. Methuen, much more clearly than I had represented it; and have shewn you by the past what you have to expect, should you be so far lost to yourselves and to your country as to re-elect him for your representative.

Having done for the present with this Freeholder, "the friend of Mr. Benett," whom he has abused; the defender of Mr. Methuen, whom he has maligned; I would advise him before he attempts to threaten with his rod, to discover first, whether his opponent fears it or not; and above all never to let it go from his own custody as he did his letter, lest it should (as that has been) be turned into an instrument with which to chastise himself. Gentlemen, I shall not call him

"contemptible," because I have I trust fully proved him to be so; and that even with the aid of Gog and Magog, Don Quixote, Sancho Panco, and all of them arrayed in boots made right and left, he is a very insufficient antagonist.

Leaving him for a few days, I would ask you, gentlemen, what possible motive there can be for all the hostility that is shewn to Mr. Wellesley in certain quarters; what it can be that has raised him such an host of foes? To you it is unaccountable—almost to me. It has its root in the dread that he will from the immensity of his possessions, and the respectability of his connections, reduce our little great men to their proper level; from the urbanity of his disposition, that he will compel them to be social; and, which is the worst of all, by boldly stepping forward in the way he has done, will shew the inhabitants of the county of Wilts, the insufficiency of club laws, and magisterial regulations, for keeping in subjection the free born; and I trust they will shew on this occasion the high born spirit of Wiltshire freeholders. These, gentlemen, are the reasons and the only reasons of all the contumely that has been poured out on Mr. Wellesley. They have relinquished their principles for their party; the county of Wilts has ever been acknowledged loyal, I had almost said an over loyal county, yet they oppose Mr. Wellesley who has supported the government they affect to adore, and support Mr. Methuen its avowed opposer. The family, the name of Wellesley, possesses claims upon Europe, and on this country paramount to every other family, to every other name. A proud opportunity is put into the hands of the Wiltshire freeholders to testify their gratitude and respect for the uncle, by the cordial reception of his nephew. Let it not be said that when such an opportunity presented itself, it was slighted; let it not be said that it was but coldly entertained. His high birth, his character, his connections, his princely fortune, his open, manly, and decided conduct, all appear to vouch for the integrity of his heart, and the purity of his professions. Heed not the malignity of his enemies, though clothed in the robes of magistracy, or the more sacred vestments of religion; he defies their slander, by opposing to falsehood the breastplate of truth. In him you will find an active, faithful, and zealous representative. The nephew of the Duke of Wellington cannot betray his trust.

TITUS TRUEMAN.

## WILTS COUNTY ELECTION.

### *To W. Long Wellesley, Esq.*

SIR,

CONCEIVING that a general aspersion upon the Magistracy of the county of Wilts is conveyed to the public by part of a letter, having your signature, in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal of the 20th instant, we, the undersigned Magistrates of the County, call on you to explain what you mean by the "*Notorious Quorum*" alluded to in that letter, and to name the persons of whom it is composed.

We are, Sir, your humble servants,

| | |
|---|---|
| Wad. Locke | J. Fuller |
| J. R. Grosett | Mich. Joy |
| J. D. Astley | Edward H. Mortimer |
| Thomas Hele Phipps | Fulwar Craven Fowle |
| Charles Lewis Phipps | J. Whittaker |
| George Edmondstone | Abm. Ludlow |
| Henry Bayntun | Wm. Temple |
| Fulwar Craven | H. Biggs |

*21st April*, 1818.

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### *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM still continuing my canvass, and receive every day additional encouragement to persevere. I shall soon have completed the pleasing duty of endeavouring to pay my personal respects to every one of you. Wherever I appear I perceive how much I am indebted to my friends who have made previous application in my favour to their neighbours and acquaintance. I presume to anticipate that success will be the happy result of our joint exertions.

I shall ever gratefully recollect that during my whole progress I have been greeted by all the freeholders of this my native county, to whom I was personally known, with expressions of the utmost kindness and confidence. Even those who have declined to promise me their support have received me with urbanity and apparent good opinion. I trust that I shall hereafter be considered to deserve that good opinion by my constant endeavour to discharge all the important duties upon which its continuance must depend.

Though I cannot boast that the unanimous support of all the freeholders of any one extensive district has been promised to me, yet I confide in the assurances with which I have been

favoured in every district, far too numerous and respectable to leave any apprehension in my mind of the result of the depending contest. Gentlemen,

I shall ever remain your obliged and devoted servant,

*April 24*, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## WILTS ELECTION.

SEVERAL of the leading Gentlemen in the Hundreds of Dunworth and Mere, have determined to convey the voters in the interest of Mr. Benett to the poll, free of every expense to that gentleman.—*April 24*, 1818.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE following answer to Mr. Salmon's "Suppressed Publication" was written some weeks since, when a copy of this printed paper fell accidentally into my hands, after it had been presented to a freeholder, as an electioneering puff to obtain votes.

This document was so presented by a magistrate, illustrated by notes in his own hand-writing.

It was my intention at that time to have published the suppressed document, together with the following answer; but a fear of a breach of confidence arrested my intention.

With reference to Mr. Salmon, I shall continue to feel desirous of expressing myself respectfully towards him.

It was not for the purpose of bringing him forth to public notice, or identifying my character with any professional gentleman, that I inserted the postscript to my last address; or answered the unnecessary letter written by Mr. Salmon in consequence of that postscript, which alluded to a false report; my anxious desire was *then*, as it is *now*, to place my character and conduct in its true light before the county.

Having now had an opportunity of clearly evincing to the public, that I have neither used Treasury or Government influence, I hope (as well as Mr. Salmon) to abandon all further discussion on a subject which has throughout been founded on misconception.

The *universal success*, and the respectful treatment which I have experienced during my canvass throughout every part of the county, place, beyond doubt, the valuable estimation

in which I am held by the respectable interest of this great county.——I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Trowbridge, April 24th,* 1818.

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*To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts, resident in the Hundreds of Cricklade, Highworth, Staple, Kingsbridge, and Malmesbury.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE extensive support I have received throughout the hasty canvass I have already made, the numerous unsolicited promises of votes which have been given my agents, together with those which have been personally offered to me, give me an opportunity of returning my most grateful thanks to my friends in these particular parts of the county, who have contributed so largely to place beyond the possibility of doubt my ultimately realizing the highest object of my ambition—that of representing their interests in Parliament.

The kindness generally expressed towards me, will permit my taking the liberty of requesting the favour of my friends to withhold their votes until I have the honour of paying my personal respects to those gentlemen, whom I have not seen.——I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Malmesbury, April 21st,* 1818.

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*To W. Long Wellesley, Esq.*

SIR,

ALTHOUGH from local circumstances we may be the *last* to express our displeasure at the attack made on your conduct as a landlord, yet we trust we are not the *less* anxious to offer this public tribute of our esteem for your high character, which we so justly prize.

We do *not* affirm that those unforeseen evils, or the unprecedented distress, which has been of late so universally felt by the great body of agriculturalists throughout the kingdom, has been altogether unfelt by *us;* but we *do* affirm, that this burthen has been rendered comparatively light by your well-timed and liberal interference.

For these, and other marks of your kind consideration, it is, that we, your tenants in the county of York, are desirous, that not only the vile calumniator of your fame should be exposed, but also, that the world may know your real character, and that the motive from which we act is a grateful one.—We beg leave to subscribe ourselves, with gratitude and respect, Sir, your obliged Tenantry,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Wilson | Geo. Pickering | John Coates |
| W. Dunning | John Pick | Wm. Saddler |
| Benj. Wright | Wm. Parker | Sam. Simpson |
| Ann Wailes | Wm. Raper | Matt. Harnby |
| Thos. Shipard | John Tanfield | Jos. Williamson |
| Thos. Whorley | Matthew Walls | James Husband |
| Wm. Gibson | Jos. Linwood | Thos. Richards |
| T. Rowland | Wm. Geldard | Wm. Taylor |
| J. Brotherton | Jane Leeming | Wm. Rutter |
| Geo. Parker | Geo. Smith | Wm. Holmes |
| | | John Pulleyn |

*York, April* 20, 1818.

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*To W. Long Wellesley, Esq.*

SIR,

I AM sorry to hear there has been reflections on your character as a landlord. I should be unworthy the name of your tenant if I did not contradict such vile aspersions on your conduct, as I have received from you, Sir, the greatest kindness and liberality; such kindness as will always call forth my warmest gratitude and attachment to your person and your cause.

I hope success will attend your present pursuit, and your wishes will be realized.

This, Sir, is the sincere wish of your attached and faithful tenant, JOHN HALE.

*North Bradley, April* 18, 1818.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

I should thank you to put the above letter in your paper as soon as possible. In so doing you will oblige your constant customer, JOHN HALE.

If there is any thing to pay for putting in this letter, you will be so good as to send the account by your newsman, and I will discharge it.

## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts, resident in the Neighbourhood of Reading.*

GENTLEMEN,

It is not unfrequently the custom for Candidates to boast of their success whilst seeking the favour of freeholders. It is, however, my *peculiar* honour and gratification, to return you my very sincere thanks for the success attending my canvass during these two days, in which I have received but one hesitating vote, all the others being positive promises of support.

I have endeavoured to pay my respects to every freeholder resident in Wokingham, Hurst, Swallowfield, Shinfield, and their vicinity. I request the forgiveness of any gentleman whom, through ignorance of his residence, I may not have visited.——I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

*Reading, April* 16, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE pride with which I regard my true Wiltshire family, I shall carry with me to the grave. If they should be dishonoured by any thing, they will, I know, be unceasingly restless till they have wiped away the stain. To use an expression, which high example may render fashionable, *they will make a merit of necessity,* and ultimately triumph with unspotted honour and independence. They have one quality which is essential to manliness of character, and they never cordially attach themselves to any person who does not resemble them by possessing it—I mean the candour with which any one of them would acknowledge an injury which he might accidentally have inflicted on another, and the liberal contrition with which he would endeavour to atone for it, almost preventing accusation, effectually depriving it of sharpness, and perhaps converting the accuser into a mediator and a friend.

I lately alluded to an unguarded assertion made by one of our Candidates, that he had *the support of Government* in the depending contest for the county. The assertion could not but be offensive towards such of us as are most zealous of the independence of our county; I expected, not that the gentleman would disavow his having made it (for that appeared im-

possible), but that he would offer to us some apology for so gross a breach of the ordinary courtesy of a candidate; that he would palliate the matter, by stating, that in an extended canvass, some expression may escape the most discreet, which, in candour, should not be distinctly marked; that he would appeal to our well-known liberality to pardon and forget an instance of indiscretion so venial and undesigned.

Had such apology been made, we should probably have forgotten the offence; we should have had proof that our character was known, and duly estimated, by the gentleman who seeks to represent us, and we might have regarded him the more for the deliberate homage which he would have shewn to our independence.

But your last journal contains a letter from the Candidate himself, of far different effect. I hardly confided in ocular demonstration, when I found that it contained no disavowal of the vain boast having been made, no apology for having made it, no explanation of circumstances to render it less offensive, no appeal to our judgment or liberality to pardon or overlook it. Instead of these things, I found an implied censure upon magistrates, who are said to compose *a notorious quorum;* a challenge for the publication of a paper, of which we had never heard before; an assertion that Mr. Salmon has no right to know how *Treasury influence* may be employed; that the Candidate's agents were to canvass for him *as a truly independent man;* and, after some other matters equally unimportant, concluding with a quotation from Blackstone's Commentaries.

Was the matter incidentally charged upon that gentleman to be met or evaded by a quotation from Blackstone's Commentaries? But if Mr. Salmon, whom we all regard, had forgotten the stern prohibition of some obscure Act of Parliament, by doing something, which, as a freeholder, he might honourably do, but which, as the distributor of the stamps, was forbidden him; I do not think that a true Wiltshire gentleman, unprovoked by any other circumstance, would hastily have assailed him with quotations from that statute in a newspaper of general circulation. He might privately have communicated it with gentleness of remark, such as Mr. Salmon himself would use towards every one, on all occasions, but he would not publicly have described him as *parading* the streets of his own town in open violation of the law.

What shall we think, when it appears that Mr. Salmon has violated no law, has done nothing which he had not a right to do, nothing derogatory from his rank as a Wiltshire gentleman, or inconsistent with his public duty?

If the thing complained of had been, by harsh construction, a violation of some obscure statute, rarely consulted but to enforce a penalty, or to limit the exercise of some public privilege, how could it be fairly connected with any proceedings of the magistrates? Whatever may be lawfully done by Mr. Salmon, or whatever he is restrained from doing by parliamentary prohibition, if an unknown gentleman, resident in another county, seems to claim our representation as an hereditary or a matrimonial right, are the gentlemen of the county, who are the natural guardians of our common rights, to be restrained from expressing their sense of the indignity offered to the freeholders at large, because the sovereign has enrolled their names in the commission of the peace?

Mr. Salmon has published the paper which the magistrates are charged with having previously circulated. I hope that every freeholder will attentively peruse it. There it will seem to appear that Mr. Wellesley instructed one of his agents to tell every one, that he had the support of Government, that at the Treasury he lamented that he could not have the assistance of Mr. Salmon, who was assisting his opponent; that he mentioned his having taken care of Mr. Salmon at the Treasury, but as *a caution* rather than *a threat*, but yet that he complained to Mr. Arbuthnot, objecting to Mr. Salmon for interfering in the election, and met with no encouragement upon such complaint. Let the tenor of this statement be estimated by collation with the more public transactions of the depending contests.

I thank the Native for his honourable mention of me, though he is not, and probably never will be, personally acquainted with me. I wish him to remember that our friend at Pythouse was the most active of the friends of Mr. Methuen on the last general election, and actually proposed or nominated him, not at any club, but at the county meeting at Devizes, and on the hustings at Wilton. Therefore, Mr. Benett may fairly participate in the merit which he imputes to Mr. Methuen.

I trust, also, that though he may prove a determined friend of Mr. Wellesley, yet he will no more reproach any of the friends of that gentleman's opponent, as *the knot of petty tyrants*, till he can sustain the charge by imputing something inconsistent with the character of an English gentleman.

For my own part, though their domains may be very scanty, and their want of fortune excite the contempt of the Native, who may prefer to contemplate the redundant wealth of Mr. Wellesley; though they may be magistrates as well as independent gentlemen, I hope that none of my children will blush

to co-operate with them, in resisting the Candidate who seems to claim the representation as an appendage to the house and family of his lady, and in supporting the Candidate of unsullied and unquestioned honour, who solicits it upon truly independent principles, I remain, gentlemen,

Your constant reader,

*Swindon, April* 24, 1818. THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

IF *anonymous* publications will write a man down, Mr. Wellesley will most certainly be defeated; for there were scarcely ever greater endeavours at the *outset* of a contested election called into use to destroy the character (and the *private* character) of a candidate, than have been arrayed by the friends of Mr. Benett against one, and *one only*, of his opponents. The fabricators of these weapons have, however, unwittingly benefited the cause they aspersed; and though, like the surface of the stream, it has for a moment been ruffled by the filth cast upon it, *in a moment* it has pursued its *unsoiled* course, whilst their missiles have mingled with the mud beneath.

As an independent freeholder, I would, however, ask—and all of us have a right to ask—wherein consists the superiority of Mr. Benett over Mr. Wellesley? I mean that superiority which renders him more likely to benefit our county by his *abilities*, his *interest*, and his *independence?* This is our main consideration;—private character is a consideration with this;—but if we stop to pick holes in Mr. Wellesley's garment, I fear we shall find Mr. Benett blushing at the *patch-work* in his.

In a few words then, has Mr. Benett abilities *that will* rank him *superior?* *Particular* abilities he may possess, such as are called forth by *experimental* agriculture, and shewn in *speculative* writings; but I very much doubt whether he possesses those *general abilities* which befit him for a county member.

Has he fortune, in or out of the county, that a county member ought to have, to support the increased expenses, if elected, it will bring upon him? Is he of sufficient interest and consideration, for us to look up to him, in our need, for efficient assistance in Parliament? And, lastly, is he so *very* independent? Some two or three good-natured friends of his "throw up their caps, and cry long live King Richard;" and I have no doubt he *is* "an *honourable* man; so are they all, *all* honourable men;" but, really, as he has never given us the

slightest clue to his *principles* and *opinions* as to the *great questions of the state;* it may *be a question* with us, why Mr. Wellesley's word, and the words of *his friends,* are not, to the full, as current as the coinage from Pyt-house *downwards* to the writer who *dates* from Swindon.

Now these are considerations, urged I trust without asperity, which more than any others, belong to us all; and I trust *we shall* consider them duly and seriously, in spite of the ungenerous endeavours that are used to blind you from them; and in spite of the cobweb trickery some would form around their idol, with the imitation of independence, before its substance and reality have been demonstrated. Let *no man* teach us independence; nor *because he lived in* 1772, dictate what we are to do in 1818; but rather let us weigh the genuine merits of the *candidates themselves,* and consider which is best calculated under *every point of view* to benefit our county and our country, by representing us in Parliament: and if we do this, most seriously do I believe, that the majority will elect Mr. Wellesley, and at the final hour of contest crown him with the highest honour he can aspire to—our "*unbiassed suffrages.**"

I am, your obedient servant,

A TRUE FRIEND OF INDEPENDENCE.

*April* 22, 1818.

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## *Candidus to the Independent Freeholder of the Salisbury Gazette.*

CANDIDUS presents his respectful compliments to the "Independent Freeholder" of the Salisbury Gazette, and from motives of the purest gratitude, for the information he has received from his last communication to the Editor, in reply to the letter of Candidus, he has determined to turn the whole of it into verse, and trusts that he will feel grateful for the favour.

"Took my own fists to break my head,
"And left me on the floor for dead."

An Independent Freeholder

AN INDEPENDENT FREEHOLDER'S LETTER.

"A very great author has written to prove
That there's no earthly blessing—suppose we say *Love:*
And of comforts the greatest; of passions the best,
Or feelings the nicest, but have got a zest!

* Vide *Mr. Benett's* addresses.

And who tells us most sagely, he heard from his mother,
That we can't have the one without having the other;
And as thus, Sirs, it is with the works of our Maker,
It should be so, he thinks, with every Moon-Raker!
Therefore my two friends—Paul Methuen and Benett,
Must one or the other (the devil is in it)
Retire from the contest; the matter will cloy
If we've both good alike! Now with Wellesley's alloy,
We shall snugly go on; now mind the analogy,
(I need 'nt repeat it, for that is tautology)
As this our great county two Members must have,
Its interests to guard, and its honour to save;
To choose two *good alike*, would alter my plan;
We must have some alloy, 'tis so Jove deals with man;
If comforts have crosses, and good has its evil,
Let's have Methuen for angel, and Wellesley for devil!
Our grand Constitution—so happy, so prized!
The best that man's wisdom had ever devis'd!
Has some of this mixture; is not without fault;
Has the *bitter* of hops, with the *sweetness* of malt!
But the worst of the evils which from it arise,
And which oft have drawn tears from my oyster-shell eyes,
Are contested Elections, and that too for *counties*;
(In boroughs you know the voters get *bounties!*)
Too often the father's opposed to the son,
The son to the father to keep up the fun:
Black eyes, bloody noses, 'twixt one and the other,
Are shar'd with delight between brother and brother;
The friends of our bosom are turn'd into foes,
Our syrup to verjuice, our cherries to sloes!
Our Elective Franchise is nought but delusion;
We had better throw't up and save all this confusion.
Take whoever appears, on some nobleman's *flat*,
And save all the drunkenness, wrangling, and riot!
I've a case, Sirs, in point—a brother of mine,
Accustom'd to *glutton* as oft as he'd dine:
On my writing to *him* such another long letter,
Took my friendly advice, and then grew somewhat better;
Would still eat a little, but never would glutton,
Took to Suffolk *sky-blue*, and gave up leg of mutton:
Now safe in his coffin he hungers no more,
His appetite's gone, and his gluttony's o'er!
Try but this with Elections, don't trouble your heads
Who *comes* in or goes out, tumble up to your beds;
Let other folks mind it, don't you make a bother,
And your liberty 'll soon sleep as sound as my brother:
Besides, my good friend, though my system be new,
Poll as long as you like, you can have only *two!*
And when you can have them, and free of expense,
And please all our justices!—Men of *such* sense!
'Twill save all the trouble, 'tis better to take 'em,
And then you're secure, no expenses can break 'em.
'Twill save Quorum and Club what they mean to advance
To keep Johnny Benett from moving to France;
It will save all the rest, with my friend Fulwar Craven,
The expense of conducting him safe to the haven!
Bring Fisher of Enford, well plea'd to the South,
In the hope of procuring supplies for his mouth.
How often, alas! has a rich candidate
Play'd the douce with his pocket, as well as his pate!

His fortune to mend turn'd a minister's tool,
Made a rogue of himself, of his voters a fool!
Now good Mr. Editor, I think it right
To avert all those evils, which hover in sight;
And if they'll but list to my friendly advice,
The county I'll save from these ills in a trice!
Brimfull of my plan, I sat down, wrote a letter,
For matter and style, there never was better;
Although it was plain to see which way I leant,
Not *one* being in *ten* could divine what I meant.
As soon as I wrote it, I sent it to you,
And had on the whole a disint'rested view;
My motives so pure, you cannot suppose
Mr. Wellesley's pretensions I meant to oppose!
I only just thought that by blasting his fame,
I should make him return by the way that he came.
But the lad was too stiff, my courage too small,
For he always recover'd his strength by a fall!
And as we'd no Herc'les to squeeze out his breath,
We found 'twas in vain to *tease* him to death.
So I then wheel'd about, chang'd my mode of attack,
Smoothly smil'd in his face, left off stabbing the back;
Requested a moment the loan of his ear,
And whisper'd "retire!" but unwilling to hear;
I determined at once that nothing should hush it,
And published my letter, determin'd "to crush it;"
And just as I though I'd accomplish'd my aim,
A wretch they call Candidus, that is his name,
Most vilely abus'd me; I could not but fret,
For his letter he sent to the Salisbury Gazette;
And he swears the next week that my letter in verse,
At least what remains on't; he means to rehearse."

*Devizes, April* 22, 1818.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR county, which in point of wealth, is equal to any, and for the bravery and public spirit of its inhabitants, inferior to none in the country, is at this time become an object of great interest with all those who are anxious for the public welfare. You have been so long as I can remember, the sport of those men who now compose the RUMP of the Deptford and Beckhampton clubs; who have divided between them the profits of your votes. Let us now look for a moment upon the scene which the county at present exhibits to our view. There are three Candidates for your suffrages at the next election; Mr. Methuen, Mr. Long Wellesley, and Mr. John Benett; the two former gentlemen have had seats in the Commons House of Parliament for many years, therefore the votes which they have given there is the best possible proof you can have of their principles; any professions from them now would be worse than useless; there cannot exist a doubt in the mind of

any rational man, that as they have hitherto done, so they will continue to do.

The only question then for your consideration, is, whether you are likely to mend the matter by making an effort to elect Mr. John Benett, who has never yet had a seat in that assembly. I have looked in vain to discover any thing like a patriotic feeling in the addresses of this new man; but I find that all the Candidates rest their claim to your support merely upon that indefinite term,—their independent principles.

But, gentlemen, as we possess much better proofs than any professions, it becomes our duty now as the guardians of the public, to divest ourselves of every personal consideration; to lay aside the irritation and prejudice of partisans, and dispassionately examine the truth. Has Mr. Benett been a supporter of the ministers in their profligate expenditure, and insupportable system of taxation; or has he not? When the ministers were about to pass that cruel law, the Corn Bill, in opposition to the voice of a great majority of the nation, (which law has since in its operation caused the death of thousands by actual starvation, and reduced hundreds of thousands to a state of pauperism)—did not this Mr. Benett voluntarily tender his services, and give the most unaccountable evidence before the committees of the House of Lords and Commons, in favour of that cruel Corn Bill? Did not this Mr. Benett draw up a petition and procure a number of signatures which he got presented to the House of Commons, in support of this ministerial measure, "That he and the petitioners had cheerfully paid all "the taxes for the prosecution of the war; and further added, "that they would continue cheerfully to pay those taxes in "time of peace, provided that they were protected by a legis-"lative enactment to keep up the price of corn?" Has not Mr. Benett upon all occasions given his unqualified and blind support to all the measures of the ministers? Has he ever upon any one, amongst the numerous occasions that have offered in the county of Wilts, joined in any one petition that reprobated the conduct of ministers or opposed their measures? His advocates may and do say, although he has never opposed the ministers or their ruinous system of taxation, yet he has always opposed the parsons; that he has not only petitioned, but he has also written and published several pamphlets against tythes.

Now my friends and fellow countrymen have been the dupes of interested and designing men long enough; let us therefore fairly and candidly inquire into the motives for this enmity to, and his persecution of, the clergy, and this great hostility of

Mr. Benett to tythes, whilst they remained in the possession of the clergy; and if it should be found that he has been all along pursuing his own private interest; if his object was to enrich the great landholder only, whilst he professed that it was to benefit the public and relieve the farmer, then we shall come to a just conclusion, and know how to estimate the value that is likely to be derived from his future exertions.

Some few years since this Mr. John Benett purchased the tythes of Enford, in this county, and the moment he got them into his own hands, he doubled the rent of them to his tenants; and at this time he makes his own tenants pay for those very tythes *treble* the rent that the former proprietor (a stranger) ever received for them. Thus we have in Mr. Benett's own conduct the clearest evidence of the great injury that would fall upon the farmer and the public, if he were to succeed in his object of wresting the tythes from the clergy, and placing them in the possession of such rapacious land-holders as himself.

This same Mr. Benett, who, as you see, never loses sight of his own interest, even whilst he appears to be solely actuated for the public good, has screwed up the rent of his farms to a higher pitch than any other land-holder in the county, and has ground down the wages of labourers lower than any other farmer in the county, thereby increasing the number of paupers in a greater degree than any of his cotemporaries. The knowledge of these facts being pretty general in that part of the county where Mr. Benett resides, it is not at all surprising that he should so frequently meet with such specimens of British independence as the following, in the course of his canvass, *viz.*—In soliciting the vote of a humble but reputable freeholder in the city of Salisbury, he obtained this reply—"Sir, "you have done all in your power to take away my bread, and "were I to vote you into the House of Commons, you might in "return endeavour to pass laws to take away my life. Begone, "you shall not have my vote."

Although I shall never feel it necessary to apologise for offering my sentiments to the freeholders or the inhabitants of my native county, yet I should not have intruded myself upon this occasion, if I had not been called upon to contradict a most infamous report, propagated by the agents of Mr. Benett, and I fear sanctioned by himself, "That he had my support "in the present contest." Gentlemen, if I should ever change my nature, and prefer slavery to liberty; if I should prefer arbitrary power to mild and equal laws; if I should ever wish to see the price of provisions enhanced for the benefit of the

few, to the destruction of the many; then, and not till then, will Mr. Benett have my support.

I am, Gentlemen, for the present,
Your obedient servant,

*Midleton Cottage, April* 29, 1818. H. HUNT.

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*To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I FIRST solicited the honour of representing you in the ensuing Parliament, professing a rigid adherence to all the principles of our invaluable constitution, and a zealous regard to all the local concerns of the county, with which, during my past life, I have endeavoured to make myself acquainted.

My eminently successful canvass in every district of the county (which I still continue), convinces me that you confide in that profession, and that your deliberate judgment is not unfavourable to my cause.

Resting unalterably on that independence which has ever been cherished by the freeholders of Wiltshire, I hope to obtain your free and unbiassed suffrages, and to preserve your good opinion by my permanent regard to it.

I shall ever remain, Gentlemen,
Your obliged and devoted servant,

*May* 2, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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*To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING been called upon by an advertisement, signed by several magistrates, to explain the meaning of the words "*Notorious Quorum*," contained in a paragraph in one of my addresses to you, I take the liberty of requesting the favour of you to re-peruse that paragraph, which I here subjoin :—

"I have heard of, and indeed seen, extracts from a sup-
"pressed publication, printed copies of which I know have
"been confided to the care of a magistrate who formed a con-
"spicuous feature in that notorious Quorum, which do not
"abandon either magisterial pomp or authority during their
"canvass in favour of one of the Candidates for the honour of
"representing the county of Wilts in Parliament."

I question, if, after an attentive perusal of the foregoing paragraph, the most subtle legal adviser could induce any dis-

interested person to entertain an opinion that it "casts a "general aspersion upon the magistracy of the county of "Wilts," for whom, generally, I feel the greatest reverence and respect.

But when magisterial authority has been had recourse to during the present canvass, when suppressed public documents are disseminated, and when my private character is aspersed by a magistrate, accompanied by others, I feel fully justified in declaring my determination not to retract the applicable phrase of "notorious Quorum;" which, however, I have no hesitation in saying I did not mean to apply to very many of the gentlemen whose names appear to the advertisement of the 21st inst.

I now declare that I will not trouble the public with any further notice of this subject. If any gentleman shall feel himself displeased with my conduct, I shall be happy to defend or explain it so far as the courtesy due from one gentleman to another may require.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

THOUGH I have hitherto abstained from noticing any of the allusions to myself, contained in the various letters which have appeared in your journal, and other papers, on the subject of the ensuing election for the representation of this county; and though I most solemnly declare that I have neither written nor sanctioned the writing or publication of any of those letters, I am now most reluctantly called before the public to reply to the vile calumny of a Mr. John Fisher, who, not content with having induced me, by the fair promises of his superior management in the cultivation of one of my farms, to suffer him to expend the greater part of five years' rent of the same farm, in the extravagant enlargement of a (before) substantial farm-house, and in other buildings, that he might live in a splendour superior to all its former tenants; which money was expended for *his benefit alone* during the early part of a ten years' lease, though no clause existed in that lease to such effect; who, when the price of grain fell below what he ever expected, took advantage of my having

said to my tenants, that their leases should only be binding on my part, and that I would, at any time, permit any of them to resign them, and *voluntarily* tendered me his lease, which I accepted; who, not content with having been at one time more in my debt than any other of my tenants, and more, I am sure, than any other landlord in this county would have permitted; though, at the same time, I am assured he was, with *my money*, repaying to one of his own family, who was then entering on a large farm, what *he had borrowed, to enable him to stock my estate*; and, finally, who, if brought to the proof, when he had settled all his accounts (except what he still in justice owes to me) and quitted my estate, notwithstanding the alteration in the price of farm produce, and without adverting to other property than what he originally had, and afterwards made on my farm, *was, I verily believe, a richer man than when he entered on it*; who, I repeat, not contented with these benefits received, now occupies a great part of one of the pages of your paper, with a wretched attempt to vilify my character.

This man, thinking to injure me in the estimation of my friends, the freeholders of Wiltshire, most *malignantly* and *falsely* charges me with having broken my word with him.

I am now on my canvass, and shall not be at home for a week to come, consequently I cannot *immediately* have access to my accounts; but the facts are briefly these:—

Mr. Fisher took a ten-years' lease of Enford Farm, commencing, if I am not mistaken, at Michaelmas 1811. Previously to executing any agreement or lease, he inspected the farm repeatedly, with various of his friends, who took every possible precaution to make the best bargain in their power; consequently, it would be absurd to suppose that I could have said to men of such ability and caution, that, "if the farm would not do, I would make it," as now stated by Mr. Fisher. In fact, I never made so futile a promise, nor did Mr. Fisher ever claim it till *after* he had surrendered his lease, and *conducted himself insolently*, in his own house, *both to myself and my solicitor*.

Mr. Fisher came to me, unexpectedly, at Devizes, with Mr. Eden (I believe on the 24th July, 1816): he, *without any of the preface which he states to have passed*, tendered me his lease at the end of half his term, saying only, that he did so in consequence of the permission I had given to that effect. Mr. Fisher was then in a very bad state of health, and I asked him if he wished to have an offer of the farm again, *if, on a revision of the terms, I should think proper to make a reduction of*

*rent*; his answer was, that he did not wish to have any thing more to do with it, or words to that effect. I then desired him to make it known that the farm was to be let, and we immediately parted. I deny that Mr. Fisher ever offered to continue the farm at the valuation of two persons fairly chosen, till *after* the time that Mr. Fay, the present tenant, was in treaty for it, when he said something which I cannot recollect, but which I did not then, and do not now believe, meant any thing more than to shew his ill-will to the present tenant, and to form a subject of complaint against me. And I positively declare, that I did offer to Mr. Fisher what I have repeatedly offered to my tenants, that I would *submit to take such a rent of him as should be agreed on by two persons mutually chosen to value the estate.*

I never heard of the expression of turning a farm into "lark leases," before I saw it used by Mr. Fisher in your journal, and applied to me. The idea is novel and ingenious, but I do not deserve the credit of it. It would have been truly absurd on my part, had I suffered Mr. Fisher to have made me his debtor for ploughing at 14*s.* per acre (the price he asked) and other work at an equally extravagant rate, to the probable amount of £500 or £600, when I *knew he was doing all in his power to prevent my obtaining a tenant for the farm.*

Now, gentlemen, I would ask you, or any other man of common sense, whether a lease of a farm is not like any other agreement between man and man, and whether Mr. Fisher *ought not, in common justice and honesty,* to have felt himself under an obligation to me for permitting him to resign his engagement, when he considered it to be an unprofitable concern. Would *he* have resigned his lease to me had it been an advantageous one at the time, or *would he have added one shilling to my rent in consequence of any great increase of his profit, had I been even in poverty?* No, gentlemen, such a man would have done no such thing; *he* would take every advantage; *he* would *abuse his benefactor* at a time when, with *paltry cunning, he thought he could injure him the most.*

The fact is, Mr. Fisher has done a very foolish act. He has thrown himself out of one of the best, and, in my estimation, cheapest farms in Wiltshire. Another, and, fortunately for me, a better tenant, has got possession of it; one who does not require all the buildings erected for Mr. Fisher, but who *pays* his rent punctually (the same rent, £1,260 per annum) without those eternal complaints which I had been accustomed to hear.

Enford Farm is not made "lark leases" of, and, I trust,

never will in my time. This, gentlemen, is the *true cause* of Mr. Fisher's spleen. He is angry with himself for his own folly, and *mean* enough to vent his wrath on me at a *time* when he thinks he can injure me. Why else had not Mr. Fisher brought forth this mighty charge (for so, no doubt, he thinks it) a year or more ago? Why did he delay it, till he found it *necessary to fabricate a falsehood*, and say, that he had been "*credibly informed*," that *I* and my *agents* had used his name on my canvass? For what purpose could *his* name be used on my canvass? I am sure it has not been mentioned by me; and if my agents have used it, why does not Mr. Fisher, and his *secret informer*, name them? The fact undoubtedly is, his name has not been used by any agent of mine.

Though the whole of the charges, made against me in Mr. Fisher's letter, when fairly examined, amount to nothing, yet the intention of the writer is the same. That intention can only have been to induce a belief that I am a bad landlord, for the obvious purpose of lowering me in the estimation of my friends, the yeomanry of Wiltshire. I could, no doubt, obtain the signatures of all my tenants, from the renter of Enford Farm, down to the occupiers of my 30*s*. cottages and potatoe gardens, to any written character I might choose to tender them; or I might even use their names, if I thought fit: but having been a resident and well-known landlord in this county all my life, I prefer leaving the just defence of my character and conduct to my numerous friends, who know me well, than to such means; and I particularly desire that my tenants will not spontaneously, in writing, give to the public the sentiments of esteem which I know most of them feel towards me.

I trust, gentlemen, I am too well known in the county of Wilts, and Mr. Fisher is *now* also *too well known* in this county for his malice to have any effect, except that of occupying part of my time, which I should otherwise be employing amongst my numerous friends in this part of the county, and filling the pages of your paper with what must be very uninteresting to most of your readers.

I remain, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

*Malmesbury, 28th April*, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

MR. SALMON has written an address to you, which has been printed, and though not indiscriminately circulated, has been

exhibited to various persons. This address, which purports to be an explanation of *his* conduct, may be viewed also as an attack on *mine*.

Under these circumstances I deem it incumbent on me to reply to it. In doing this, I shall, like that gentleman, confine myself to facts. I never authorised any agent of mine, to say, that "I had the support of Government."

I did not say, that "I had seen Lord Sidmouth," or that "I had been at the Treasury, and taken care of Mr. Salmon." I did not say (I could not have said) any such thing, for I had neither seen Lord Sidmouth, nor been at the Treasury.

If Mr. Salmon understood me to say, that Government *had* promised me support, there was either a misconstruction on *his* part, or an imperfect explanation on *mine*.

I did not say, that "Mr. Arbuthnot had written to Mr. Salmon."

If any of my professional agents have, from misconception—from misplaced zeal—or from any other cause, been led to use improper expressions, or in any way to commit themselves, I sincerely regret it; but I can no more be accountable for their errors, than another Candidate can be, for the gross, unfounded, and malevolent aspersions which have been thrown on my public and private character, both by his particular friends and professional agents.

I shall be happy to receive support from *any* man, or *any* party; yet, if I could in no other way secure my election, than by binding myself to some political leader, I would instantly decline.

The sole object of my ambition is to become an *independent representative* of your truly independent county.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

HOWEVER calumniated, I shall never forget the dignity of my true Wiltshire character. The part which I bear in the business of the county may be mistaken as to its motive or its object; but, as it originates neither in revenge nor in conspiracy, and as its end is consonant to the principles which were triumphant in 1772, I will neither betray those principles in

my more advanced age, nor will I maintain them by means of detraction or any other unworthy aid.

It is to the public transactions of our county, both past and present, that I wish to attract the attention of the freeholders. They afford but one point worthy of our consideration; namely, how we may best maintain our own honour and consistency in our decision of the depending contest.

Abundance of matter may be extracted from the circumstances of the last contest to guide us now, without the risk of dishonour or inconsistency.

The unsuccessful Candidate at that time, though opposed at an early period by appalling numbers, yet throughout the conflict maintained unruffled serenity of temper: at its conclusion he and his noble family gave us all an example of gentleness and good humour, which tended speedily to allay the ferment of contention, and to reconcile all the personal differences which are perhaps inevitable on such occasions.

He never boasted of the support which he might derive from any source that was not truly Wiltshire; he entered into no personal altercations with any professional gentleman who declined to promote his interest; he sought no quotation from a law-book or a penal statute to serve either by way of threat or caution to paralyse the lawful exertions of any one unfavourable to that cause. Though many of the gentlemen of the county felt it their peculiar duty to be active in opposition to him, yet he never assailed any of them with disrespectful reproach, nor did he give them occasion publicly to call on him for the explanation of any expression, seeming to reflect on magistracy itself.

The discussion between Mr. Salmon and Mr. Long Wellesley is at an end, but the circumstances disclosed in its progress we cannot immediately forget.

Mr. Salmon asserted that *Mr. Wellesley* and his agents "told both himself and a friend that *he had the support of Government*."

Mr. Wellesley evaded this direct assertion, by disavowing that he "used *Treasury influence* in his canvass." He called for the publication of a paper which he seemed to suppose would charge him with using it, (though it now appears he had already seen and had prepared his answer to that paper). He spoke disrespectfully of a body of magistrates; and made a quotation from Blackstone's Commentaries, which implied that Mr. Salmon had transgressed the law, and incurred a very severe penalty.

The publication called for has appeared; and it does not

charge Mr. Wellesley with having used *Treasury influence* in his canvass, but plainly proves that he had none at his command. Nevertheless it implies that Mr. Wellesley *told* Mr. Salmon that he had been *at the Treasury, and was promised support.* It further expresses that Mr. Arbuthnot, who is Secretary at the Treasury, in a letter dated 14th March (the Saturday after the Wiltshire assizes), stated "that it was perfectly true that Mr. Wellesley had called upon him, and had objected to Mr. Salmon's conduct."

Mr. Wellesley replies to this, not that he did not say what is imputed to him by Mr. Salmon, but that he had *authorised* no agent to say so; not that Mr. Arbuthnot did not write to the effect stated to a friend of Mr. Salmon, but that he had never said "Mr. Arbuthnot had written any thing to *Mr. Salmon*" himself; not that he had called on Mr. Arbuthnot, the Secretary to the Treasury, but "that he had not seen Lord Sidmouth, nor been at the Treasury."

Let us bear in mind these circumstances so far only as they affect ourselves. Mr. Salmon is unhurt. The equivocation, however skilful, will not mislead us.

And let us regard all the proceedings of the Candidates and their friends only as they relate to our own just cause. Though twenty long rolls of tenantry from twenty counties should be published to display the amazing opulence, or to eulogise the fame of one Gentleman; though a solitary tenant should be sought out to publish an unreasonable complaint of another; though deep-rooted revenge should vilify one Candidate, or unmannerly malignity should unjustly asperse the domestic conduct of another; though it should be objected to one Candidate that he thought favourably of the measure of the Corn Bill, or to another that he actually voted for it in Parliament; though it may be charged as a crime on one Candidate, or another that he thinks tythes injurious to agriculture, and that the clergy would be more honourably maintained by an equal revenue derived from land of equal value; yet the plain man of sense will attribute all such matters to their true origin and motive. When all is said, we must still be anxious that our county should be represented by true Wiltshire Gentlemen, who advance far other pretensions than those of family rank or matrimonial alliance. Whoever has advanced such pretensions, however honourable in himself, cannot be now elected to represent us, consistently with the principles which at Mr. Goddard's election we established so much to our own honour.

I remain, Gentlemen, your constant Reader,

*Swindon, May* 1, 1818. THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

BY an advertisement in your Journal of Monday last, it seems that the knowing ones are puzzled. The men of Gotham have been attempting to "hedge in the cuckoo," but he has escaped. I request you to insert the following epigram in your next Journal, which I have addressed to Mr. Long Wellesley, to serve as a glossary to his "notorious" letter, and to guard him in future against the use of words of doubtful interpretation. This humble production is an extemporaneous effusion from the most devoted servant of the Muses,

PETER PANGLOSS.

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"Ridentem dicere verum
"Quid vetat?"——*Horace—Hem!!*

## *To W. Long Wellesley, Esq. on his use and abuse of the words* "notorious Quorum:"—

When any thing's as clear as day,
It is "notorious" we say;
And "Quorum" means, as "wise men tell us,"
A country Justice and his fellows.
Now our wise "Quorum" don't think fit
To take your sauciness for wit.
To be described "as clear as day"
Cannot apply to them, they say;
Indeed they're growing quite uproarious
At being thus describ'd "notorious!"
They question the propriety
Of such a "notoriety;"
And say you only mean to flout 'em,
For that they've got no light about 'em!
Dullness around, behind, before 'em,
They won't be call'd "notorious Quorum."

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## *To my sublunary Kinsman, the Old Moon-Raker.*

MY DEAR COUSIN,

THOUGH I cannot trace to a nicety the relationship subsisting between you and me, yet that I am collaterally one of your family I have not the least doubt. You rake for the Moon, wishing to enjoy her mild and benignant influence—a blessing which I already, by inheritance, in a good degree, possess. Unfortunately, however, that luminary does not operate on her votaries always in like manner and measure; varying her sway, it seems, according to her quarters, faces,

and age. Hence it is, that the subjects of her dominion, though all of one family, judge differently on the very same points, being affected by her power according to the various positions in which, by birth, climate, or other accidents, they are respectively placed. And hence it is, dear cousin, that you and I do not fancy alike in political matters. You live at Swindon, and I near Warminster; and that is reason enough why we should vary a few shades in our opinions respecting some of the present candidates for the representation of us all in Parliament.—The tides, you know, which acknowledge the same patroness, are liable to a similar variation, at distances equally short.

In your first epistle your sentiments are moderate, and your language innoxious; the Moon was then in her first quarter, and her influence consequently but feeble; and this accounts for the feebleness of your observations, though your illuminating intentions are notwithstanding pretty clearly seen. I, too, feel similarly weak at that season, which proves we are indeed related. Yet here, I must notice an incongruity or two you have fallen into, which are too glaring, and will injure our credit:—You date your letter at Swindon; whereas the common opinion accords with my lunar impression, in placing your seat much nearer Devizes. And again, you state that the editor of the Salisbury Journal has passed his 82d year, and you yourself are still older; but it is well known that the first part of this proposition is not correct, and the latter part is said to be very doubtful. Now, consider, dear cousin, how such hazardous expressions tend to tarnish the "honour of our family," and nullify your good designs. Let me advise you, therefore, for our own sakes, to be more cautious in wording your future communications.

The second epistle with which our "family-pride" kindly allows you to *enlighten* the public, is of a brighter cast than the former—indeed, dazzlingly so; its language is vehement, and its arguments almost irresistible. But this again demonstrates our consanguinity; for the fair celestial traveller was then approaching the end of her second quarter—or, in other words, was looking down almost *full* upon us. *My* powers, also, at that period of her progress, are nearly at their climax; they put forth their "mighty strength," insomuch that if perchance I meet with adversaries, I bluster and frown (mild as I am at other times) so pompously and independently, as to make some of them quake and "tremble."

Yet, though so far we agree, the inspirations of our goddess (in her vagaries) produce on some topics, different ideas in

our minds. Thus with respect to the "Native's" observation concerning "*moon-raking propensities*," you put, dear cousin, a construction on it, which, in my humble conceit, no logical or grammatical rule would bear you out in, and which therefore he has easily refuted. I am grieved you should have suffered your impulse to carry you so beyond the mark; as I also am, that it should urge you to use language so nearly approaching "the language of asperity," by asserting that Mr. Long Wellesley is a "stranger born no one knows where;" when it is so universally known *who* and *what* he is;—that he is an Englishman by birth and education—that he possesses some of the finest estates in Wiltshire, and is shortly to be an habitual resident—that he is able and honourable as a public, and generous and amiable, as a private character—and is, besides, nearly related to men, whose achievments have done more for Old England, and her interests in Europe, and in India, than has been accomplished ever before by any other of her champions, however renowned;—men, whose fame resounds at this moment in every region of the world, and will descend supereminently to the latest posterity. When the names of Wellington and Wellesley are forgotten in Britain, England will be no more England; India will no longer belong to her. Oh, cousin, how could you have so committed yourself!

Alas! however, my surprise and sorrow were further augmented, when, notwithstanding all due and reasonable explanation had been given, subsequently to your second address, I observed you so far forgot the "candour and liberal contrition," which you have recommended to your children, as to *repeat* the injury you had inflicted on Mr. Wellesley, by terming him again in your third address, an "unknown gentleman."—This again shows how we moon-people are unconsciously led into inconsistencies by the unaccountable frolics of our capricious queen. Pray, Sir, for the "honour of our family," rest not, till by candid acknowledgment of your fault, you have "wiped away this stain."

As the Moon was in her wane, at the date of your last epistle, I do not much wonder, dear cousin, that you attempt to defend Mr. Salmon (though perhaps a near relative) in so feeble a way, by endeavouring to identify his cause with that of the magistrates. This proves that his cause stands in need of support, as indeed it does; for Mr. Wellesley's negation of the charge officiously brought against him, is as good as that gentleman's affirmation in its favour. The *onus probandi* lies with Mr. Salmon, and he has not yet acquitted himself of that task, to the satisfaction even of his friends.

In conclusion, dear cousin, disconcerted as I feel, through the present decrepitude of our inconstant tutelary, I will not, however, follow your example, by "attacking the character" of either of the contending Candidates, whatever I may imagine of their comparative merits or demerits. Though you have taught your children (as you *say*) to abstain from defamation, as a public duty, yet, dear cousin, how plain is it, that, on this occasion, you have not practised that lesson yourself. For the "unspotted honour of our family," do not err so any more Take in good part, dear Cousin, the advice of one who is, like yourself,

*My Residence, April* 30, 1818. A LUNATIC.

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*To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

I AM most reluctantly obliged to intrude again on your columns to completely refute the ungentlemanly and low calumny, which Mr. Benett has endeavoured to fix on me, in his most false reply to my statement of facts in your last week's paper. What will the public think, when, in the first place, I assure them, that so far from the greater part of the enormous sum of five times £1260 being expended on Enford farm-house, for me to live in *splendour*, the fact is, *there was only built a brew-house*, or place for the constant men working on the farm, to sit in on winter evenings, there being no place for that purpose before; and, while that was doing, I found Mr. B.'s own men in victuals and beer, which with the carriage of materials, I consider I paid quite as much towards it as Mr. B. As to the other part of the house, all the neighbourhood knows, *it is precisely as it was before I took it, except the papering and painting, which I have never received a farthing for*.—In reply to my promise of *superior cultivation* of Enford farm, Mr. B. ought to recollect I could not make such an assertion, as I could not possibly know the general mode of management of the Wiltshire farms, it being so totally different from what I had been used to in Leicestershire, (my native county); therefore Mr. B. saw, and took advantage of my ignorance, and, by fair promises, induced me to agree to the several plans he proposed at different times, to the general improvement of his farm, looking, as he always does, to his own future benefit, let it be at whose cost it may. I, therefore, in justice to my former statement of account between Mr. B. and myself, contradict the false and low aspersion Mr. B. has asserted,

respecting the expense I put him to during my occupation of Enford farm.—After the above statement of the enormous expense, in addition to the house, to enable me to live in *splendour*, I have to state that the expense of making a new water meadow could not be much less than £600, which was a covenant in my lease, to be done by a certain time; the whole carriage for which, as well as for building two cottages, and a stable at the Beak Barn (where every thing was in the most ruinous state), and also the building two new cottages at Enford, enclosing the Manor field with a wall, and in general, all the repairs of Mr. B. cottages and building, as well as making two ponds on the farm, was all done at my expense of carriage of materials, as well as part of the timber which Mr. B. sold at the time the meadow was made. Therefore the public will easily judge for whose benefit I was so easily drawn into so much expense, under the most specious promise of having the farm "*made to do;*" and who is now reaping the benefit of it, Mr. F. or Mr. B.? it does not require much discernment, I think. I again repeat, Mr. B. cannot deny his promise of making the farm "*do,*" which his own friends must have heard him repeat, when they accompanied Mr. B. to Enford farm annually for the first three years, on shooting parties, for two or three days, when I, of course, thought I could not do enough for a landlord who promised so fair;—I, therefore, put up with the inconvenience it was to my family, as well as the expense. But what return did Mr. B. make me? why, he gave me a piece of cloth, of a colour, called "*the Pythouse mixture,*" to make me a coat. As to Mr. B.'s unwarranted assertion, that he was assured I was helping one of my family who, had taken a large farm with his money, I deny it; nor do I believe any person did or could assure Mr. B any such thing. What must the inhabitants of this respectable county think when I tell them, that on my saying, when I first came into Wilts, that I had no society, Mr. B. replied, so much the better, as I should find the Wiltshire men sharks, who would bite through both ears, if I did not take care. Although I could not at that time know any of the neighbourhood in which I lived, or the general character of the inhabitants of Wilts, yet I cannot, in justice to my feelings, refrain from saying, that, the reception I have so generally met with from them will ever claim my sincerest gratitude, let me be situated where I may. But this, I think, will shew in what estimation their Candidate (Mr. B.) holds the inhabitants of Wilts; and who, it seems, was not generally known in the

county till the Wilts Agricultural Society was formed by him. And for what purpose was that done? Was it for the good of the county, or to aid him in his present view? As Mr. B. calls on me, I will tell him that it has been proved that one of his agents did make use of my name at a public table, a few weeks since, by saying Mr. B. had offered me the Enford farm at two persons' valuation, although I was greatly in arrear, or words to that effect. Now I declare, that Mr. B. *never did offer me the farm in any way, except at the present rent;* but that I more than once offered to take it at two persons' valuation, or even at a corn rent.

I deny ever trying to prejudice or interfere with any person who came to look over Enford farm. I also positively deny I ever asked Mr. B. 14*s.* per acre for ploughing, but offered to leave it to any person of Mr. B.'s own choosing; although the ploughing, valued to me, that Mr. Pocock did, was at 15*s.* per acre. As to Mr. B. insinuating that I endeavoured to show ill-will to Mr. Fay, nothing can be more false, as Mr. Fay and myself never had any mis-words since his entering the farm; but are now, as we always have been, on the most friendly terms. And in reply to my "venting my spleen," I most solemnly declare, I had made a determination not to interfere in any way during the present canvass, and defy any person to prove that I did, directly or indirectly, endeavour to influence any person for or against either of the Candidates, till I was informed of the unhandsome as well as untrue manner in which my name had been made use of by Mr. B. or his agent. I shall now, Sir, take my leave of you, and shall not any more intrude on your columns, let what will appear against these facts; relying on my character to bear me out against it.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

*Allcannings, May 5th,* 1818. JOHN FISHER.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

A GENTLEMAN, *undeniably* in the interest of Mr. Benett, has for these four weeks past, addressed to you observations, which he conceived calculated to raise that candidate, for your voices, to general estimation. The weak foundation of these observations has been, however, amply pointed out by a writer in the interest of Mr. Wellesley. In fact, there is nothing which the *present* contest can claim in common with

the election of 1772, nor can one tenable argument be produced proving their analogy. I shall, therefore, content myself in asserting to you that the Old Moon-Raker has been betrayed to assert in his *last* letter, some very ungenerous and unworthy observations, and such as are altogether incompatible with the impartiality and serenity of temper he officiously affects. His whole letter is filled with insinuations against the conduct of Mr. Wellesley, whilst that of his opponents is considered entirely correct and *necessary*. Now "abundance of materials may be extracted from the circumstances of the past (and *present*) contest," to prove the reverse of this to be the truth, and that Mr. Wellesley is a man "more sinned against than sinning."

In the contest of 1772, Mr. Goddard disdained in his canvass *saying* ought that might disparage the character of his opponent; "throughout the conflict he maintained unruffled serenity of temper;" nor did he wait till a tenant brought him forward to disavow having sanctioned scurrilous abuse heaped upon his adversary.—He never arrogated to himself exclusive independence, nor insinuated that his votes were alone "*unbiassed;*" never ridiculously grounded his hopes of success merely on being born in the county, as if no plant of ability grew beyond it; and certainly no *professional* agent of his thought it worth while to magnify a private conversation into a public delinquency; and after disseminating his attack among his *Friends (by his own acknowledgment some of the "Quorum")*, *pretends* he had no intention in the world to malign the character of his *employer's* opponent.

*Forty-six years ago, no* magistrates of the county would have stooped to put forth the *election weapon some* of the *present day* have done; and it is idle for one moment to conceive that the *sixteen* who are so very choice of their dignity, represent the feelings of the whole magistracy, or have any other intention than to further, by the laughable notice they have taken of Mr. Long Wellesley's expression, the election of Mr. Benett. It is, however, to be regretted for the honour of the *rest* of the *Quorum*, so many of its members should appear to *own the cap* that was presented them, and *some of whose heads* it at once appears it was *made to cover and decorate.*

Such, my brother freeholders, was *not* the conduct of *Mr. Goddard* and *his* advisers in the *last* memorable contest; but such I fear *is* the conduct of *Mr. Benett* and *some of his* supporters in the *present.* I cannot suppose that all of you will be convinced of this, but I do believe that the majority will

think there is at least equal credit to be given to the observations of the *New* Moon-Raker as to the insinuations of the *Old*.—I should have believed the assurances of *that* gentleman to be more virtuous and consistent, were it not for the unmanly sneer respecting Mr. Long Wellesley's tenantry, in the latter part of his letter—and it is somewhat *singular* that *Mr. Benett* winds up his inefficient reply to the late tenant of Enford farm, with the *same ungenerous and contemptible* insinuation; and at the same time adds that his tenants would stoop to the most abject vassalage, and sign any paper, whether of truth or falsehood, of evil-report or good report, *he might choose to dictate!*

What a picture—what a lesson—what a commentary does this afford us on the text of independence, Mr. Benett on all occasions shouts in our ears. The assertion, also, that "a solitary tenant has been sought out to publish an unreasonable complaint" against his former landlord, is also very degrading to the maker of it; and we may just as well assert, that Timothy Trueman has been hunted forth by Mr. Benett, and that that immaculate candidate is the author of the "unmannerly malignity displayed against the domestic comfort" of Mr. Wellesley.

And now let me assure you, and the Old Moon-Raker, that I do not support Mr. Long Wellesley because Mr. Benett supported the Corn Bill, or because he is not a friend to the tythe system as now established.—No; I am "anxious" that our county "should be represented by men," who although they may not constantly reside within its limits, are best fitting to support with honour its general interests; and more especially because I am yet to learn why "family rank and matrimonial alliance" takes from a man the power of studying the well being of our county, and why a *very moderate fortune*, a *partial acquaintance* with Wiltshiremen, and a residence at the *very borders* of the county, can give it to him. Whoever can advance no "greater pretensions" than these latter, "cannot *now* be elected to represent us, consistently with the principles" we ought to feel, and must "*establish*" to our *particular* honour.

I remain, Gentlemen, your very obedient servant,

*May* 5, 1818. THE *NEW* MOON-RAKER.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

AN election in a county is something like a revolution in a kingdom—it produces men of all descriptions, and amongst

those, writers are certainly the most numerous class. To this we owe the reveries of the "Moon-Raker," the whinings and pinings of the "Independent Freeholder," and the last dying speech and confession of the "Wiltshire Freeholder!" The precious effusions of the Moon-Raker are now before me, and half an hour spent upon them cannot be considered too much, especially when they contain the contents of his common-place-book for forty-six years.

The gentleman seems no great friend to antiquity; he ascribes our opinions of the wisdom and virtue of our forefathers to *infirmity*, and cannot but believe that the present generation are equally wise and equally virtuous with their progenitors. I have no wish to run down the moral character of the present race of human beings, but I must tell this Solomon that it is from the knowledge of our forefathers that we derive wisdom; from their example that we practise virtue; and though he may in his own estimation be wiser than his teachers, in mine he shews but a very miserable spectacle of proficiency, especially if the letters he has sent abroad are the *chef d'œuvres* of his literary exertions; but he claims a merit from being old, while he attempts to inveigh against the follies of age; tells you what old men are apt to believe (and they are apt to believe strange things sometimes) with regard to their degenerate posterity, and then recommends the rising generation to imitate the example of their forefathers, who were neither wiser nor better than themselves. The gentleman might have saved himself the trouble of telling us that he is old, the infirmities of age are seen in every line of his letter; and a composition containing more superlative nonsense, never emanated from the press. The burthen of the song is his age, he tells you that he is "three score years and ten;" and really if he had not told us so, we might have readily guessed it, for his letters are full of nothing but "labour and sorrow." But, gentlemen, if he had been ninety-four, what has that to do with the election for the county of Wilts? If our fathers did a wise thing, they have the credit of it; if they did a foolish thing, they reaped the profit of it. What is it to you and me, gentlemen, what this

> "Old lute with ne'er a string,
> "Or none beside the bass,"

performed forty-six years ago? He tells us with as much gravity as if we were interested in it, that he "was then in the vigour of life." So he might, and his friends have probably little reason to lament that he is now in the decline. What is his age to us?—You and I, gentlemen, have to prove

that we are *now* in the vigour of life, that our faculties are unimpaired, that we are capable of judging between what is, and what is not for the interest and honour of the county, and have spirit enough to resist what has a tendency to degrade it, though sanctioned by a precedent of forty-six years standing. "I hate these *new* tunes, Sir," said the clerk to the parson one day. "Why, John;" said the priest. "Why, Sir, because they *are* new!" "Well, but John," continued the minister, "don't you know that the *old* tunes were *new* once?" John, however, though not eighty-four years of age, was fully convinced that to alter a tune, or introduce a new one instead of an old, was a most heinous offence, forgetting that what is forty-six years old *now*, was *new* forty-six years ago. If we are to inherit the prejudices of our fathers with their names, if we are to walk through the very quagmire to church, instead of crossing the bridge, merely because *father did it*; it may shew a vast deal of filial affection, but a deplorable paucity of sentiment, and a total absence of all those principles which render men a free and an accountable agent. For such a man to talk of independence, when he persuades those whom he thinks may be inclined to listen to him, to bind himself to the usages of his secret conclave, and be dragged like captives at the chariot wheel which they manufactured before these days of dreadful innovation, is only the mere cant of the party; it is only by becoming slaves to the Quorum and the Club that you become free; it is only by surrendering your privileges that you can preserve them; it is only by receiving representatives from them, that you can at all secure your elective franchise. "The world was made for Cæsar!" And the county of Wilts, according to this old dotard, was made, not for the Freeholders, but for the Clubs and the Quorum!

He calls what took place forty-six years ago a *glorious* struggle. But I ask him wherein it consisted? In his eye it might be so, because it deprived a great body of the people of their freedom and their rights, and constituted an ephori of petty tyrants, who held in subjection the high spirited freeholders of the county of Wilts. They presented the county with whomsoever they chose to select; and it was completely Hobson's choice, *that or none*; and if any one murmured, he was marked out as the victim of that local vengeance which they knew but too well how to inflict. It is from the tyranny of these men that Mr. Wellesley comes to free you. Do not be persuaded to despise the offer, because this superan-

gentleman, born of a Wiltshire family, and known to us for many personal qualifications (from which calumny cannot detract); though his hereditary estate may be less than that acquired by marrying the Wiltshire heiress, and though his cause may rest more upon such qualifications than upon splendid family connection.

My poor insane correspondent imagines that when I have been most serious, I have only been dealing out detraction, and loading his idol with abuse. This is surely the reverie of a disordered mind; for in none of my letters have I sought to tarnish his honour, or to brand his name with unmerited accusation. To attempt this respecting a personage hitherto unknown to me and to the freeholders would be ungenerous and unjust. But I may be allowed to smile at the youthful gallantry with which he claimed to represent us in Parliament; and I wish, for his own sake, that in the ardour with which he pursues that object, he had been less bold in the display of his alleged support of government, less confident of the legal knowledge gained from a hasty perusal of Blackstone's Commentaries; less ready to speak disrespectfully of magistrates; and, when desired to explain an offensive expression, less courageous to defend it (like Sir Lucius O'Trigger in the comedy) *so far as the courtesy due from one gentleman to another may require.*

Living obscurely in this remote corner of the county, I am ignorant of the illiberal and unfounded attacks made upon the public and private character of that gentleman by the particular friends and professional agents of his opponent. If any such there be, he is truly a poor injured innocent. Having heard of none such, I apprehend that the complaints of them, reiterated week after week in the columns of your newspaper, may be intended only to move our compassion and to secure our support;

"For pity melts the mind to love."

But I have heard in my obscurity of the violent personal attack made upon the opposing candidate by a disappointed tenant. This publication, by whomsoever written, has been industriously circulated throughout this and the neighbouring counties, by means which the ostensible author of it could not command, at an expense which for a private object no individual would probably incur. Though I might admit that a candidate for the county may, to promote his interest, publish at any expense the praises which his own numerous tenantry may be required to bestow upon him, yet I hope that no one enjoying the rank of an English gentleman, has,

for the purposes of the election, given such currency to querulous and unjust slander, levelled at the fair character of one honourably opposed to him. A noble and generous mind would rather suppress than promote the circulation of stale and unreasonable complaint, made from revenge and not for justice, and intended to inflict deadly injury.

I trust that hereafter the gentleman, whose cause it is attempted to prop by such unusual means, will be less sensible of the remarks made by the friends of his opponent upon the various incidents of the contest, and not imagine them to be intended as unfounded and malevolent aspersions cast upon his character, though his lunatic friends may endeavour to make him think them so.

I remain, Gentlemen, your constant reader,

THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

*Swindon, May* 8, 1818.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG the favour of you to insert in your next Journal the following statement of Mr. Benett's account with Mr. John Fisher, relative to Enford farm, which I have made out from documents, furnished from time to time by Mr. Fisher, and which I trust will be found perfectly accurate. The rent for the four first half years of Mr. Fisher's term was settled on the days when the respective balances appear to have been paid, but subsequently there has been no final settlement. I have therefore stated the accounts half yearly, when Mr. Fisher was bound to pay half-a-year's rent, always having half-a-year's rent in hand. Mr. Fisher asserts in his letter of the 21st of April, that I (as Mr. Benett's attorney) applied to him on the 19th of December 1816, for a payment of £600 on account; but in this I submit he is incorrect, as my application was not for any particular sum, but for such a sum on account as he could then pay; and my application was a very civil one, coupled with a request that he would retain in his hands sufficient to cover any claim he could possibly have on Mr. Benett for disbursements or otherwise. The result of this application on my part was the letter and account alluded to by Mr. Fisher, accompanied with a draft for what he conceived to be the balance, but which in point of fact was not the correct balance due (even

allowing the different deductions, some of which were considered improper, and for many of which no vouchers were produced,) because Mr. Fisher had charged Mr. Benett with half-a-year's land-tax too much, and half-a-year's property-tax (63*l.* 1*s.*) as being due at Michaelmas, 1816 when that tax had ceased to exist at the Lady Day preceding; and because Mr. Fisher had taken credit for the amount of the valuation for ploughing and other work, notwithstanding such valuation was made without the privity or knowledge of Mr. Benett or his coming-on tenant, who in point of fact was to pay the money. An answer was given to Mr. Fisher by me, pointing out these objections, and a request made that he would send a remittance of what in my judgment was nearer the correct balance. Here the matter rested till the meeting at Deptford Inn, on the 1st of April, 1817, when Mr. Fisher claims the merit of paying his rent before it became due; but Mr. Fisher cannot fail to recollect that this was not the case, for he had no money, but proposed to give his promissory note of hand, payable at ten days after date, for 694*l.* 13*s.* at the Banking House of Messrs. Locke, Hughes and Co. in Devizes, and which I without the least hesitation agreed to accept, alleging that I did not wish to be particular, or to occasion Mr. Fisher the least inconvenience.

Mr. Fisher intimates that he has still a claim on Mr. Benett for grass seeds and fixtures; but such claim, if admitted, cannot be equal to that which in justice Mr. Benett has on Mr. Fisher for the disputed items which he has taken credit for in the accounts.

I beg to apologize for the trouble I am imposing on you, and remain, gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,
P. M. CHITTY.

*Shaftesbury, May* 9, 1818.

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Dr. Mr JOHN FISHER *in Account with* JOHN BENETT, Esq. Cr.
*as to Enford Farm.*

| | £. | s. | d. | | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1812. *Michaelmas.* To half a year's Rent, due Lady Day 1812. . . | 630 | 0 | 0 | 1812. *Oct.* 28. By Half a Year's Property Tax . | 42 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other Work, to Oct. 28, 1812. . . . . | 528 | 9 | 7 |
| | | | | By Balance received this day . | 59 | 0 | 5 |
| | £630 | 0 | 0 | | £630 | | 0 |

| Dr. | £. | s. | d. | Cr. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1813. *Lady-day.* | | | | 1813. *April* 19. | | | |
| To half a year's Rent, due Michaelmas 1812. | 630 | 0 | 0 | By half a year's Property Tax | 63 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other work to the 19th April, 1813. | 189 | 8 | 10 |
| | | | | By Receipt Stamp | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | | | | By Balance received this day | 377 | 6 | 2 |
| | £630 | 0 | 0 | | £630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1813. *Michaelmas.* | | | | 1813. *Nov.* 23. | | | |
| To half a year's Rent, due Lady-day, 1813. | 630 | 0 | 0 | By half a year's Property Tax | 63 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | By ditto Land Tax for Mill, Lands, and great Tithes | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| To Cash overpaid in consequence of the disbursements being allowed to 20th of Nov. 1813, tho' the rent was only settled to Lady Day 1813. | 74 | 6 | 0 | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other work to the 20th Nov. 1813. | 418 | 4 | 6 |
| | | | | By Cash paid Game-Keeper | 21 | 16 | 0 |
| | | | | By Cash received of Mr. Thomas Fisher | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| | £704 | 6 | 0 | | £704 | 6 | 0 |
| 1814. *Lady-day.* | | | | 1814. *April* 24. | | | |
| To half a year's Rent, due Michaelmas 1813. | 630 | 0 | 0 | By Cash due on Balance of last Account | 74 | 6 | 0 |
| | | | | By half a year's Property Tax | 63 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | By ditto Land Tax for Mill Lands and great Tithes | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other work to 24th April, 1814. | 109 | 9 | 9½ |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Repairs of Cottages not belonging to the Farm | 48 | 1 | 8½ |
| | | | | By Cash paid Game-Keeper | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| | | | | By Cash, April 18, 1814. | 305 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | By Receipt Stamp | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | | | | By Balance this day paid | 13 | 1 | 2 |
| | £630 | 0 | 0 | | £630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1814. *Michaelmas.* | | | | 1814. *Michaelmas.* | | | |
| To half a year's Rent, due at Lady Day, 1814. | 630 | 0 | 0 | By half a year's Property Tax | 63 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | Ditto Land Tax, Mill Lands, and Great Tithes | 6 | 5 | 10 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other work to Michaelmas 1814. | 12 | 11 | 4 |
| | | | | By Cash paid the Game-Keeper | 10 | 17 | 0 |
| | | | | By Balance due and carried to the next half year's Account | 537 | 4 | 10 |
| | £630 | 0 | 0 | | £630 | 0 | 0 |
| To the balance of last Account brought on | 537 | 4 | 10 | 1814. *Nov.* 12. | | | |
| | | | | By Cash on Account Lady-day 1815. | 350 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | By half a year's Property Tax | 63 | 1 | 0 |
| Carried forward | £537 | 4 | 10 | Carried forward | £413 | 1 | 0 |

| Dr. | £. | s. | d. | Cr. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brought forward | 537 | 4 | 10 | Brought forward | 413 | 1 | 0 |
| 1815. *Lady-day.* To half a year's Rent, due Michaelmas 1814. | 630 | 0 | 0 | Ditto ditto half a year's Land-tax Mill Lands, and Great Tithes | 6 | 5 | 10 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other work | 40 | 17 | 1 |
| | | | | By Cash paid the Gamekeeper | 29 | 3 | 3 |
| | | | | By Balance due and carried to the next half year's Account | 677 | 17 | 8 |
| | £1167 | 4 | 10 | | £1167 | 4 | 10 |
| To the balance of last Account brought down | 677 | 17 | 8 | 1815. *June* 14. *Michaelmas.* By Cash on Account | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 1815. *Michaelmas.* To half a year's Rent, due Lady-Day 1815. | 630 | 0 | 0 | By half a year's Property-tax | 63 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | By ditto Land-tax for Mill Lands and Great Tithes | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other work to Michaelmas, 1815. | 29 | 11 | 0 |
| | | | | By Cash paid the Gamekeeper | 25 | 1 | 0½ |
| | | | | By Balance due and carried to the next half year's Account | 1133 | 18 | 10½ |
| | £1307 | 17 | 8 | | £1307 | 17 | 8 |
| To the balance of last Account brought on | 1133 | 18 | 10½ | 1815. *October* 17. By Cash on Account | 205 | 0 | 0 |
| 1816. *Lady-day.* To half a year's Rent, due Michaelmas 1815, | 630 | 0 | 0 | 1816. *Jan.* 6. *Lady-day.* By ditto | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | By half a year's Property Tax | 63 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | By ditto Land-tax for Mill Lands and Great Tithes, | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements allowed for Buildings, Repairs and other Work, to Lady-day, 1816. | 82 | 2 | 7½ |
| | | | | By a claim for Thomas Dear's Bill, for Plaistering and White Washing Mud Wall by Mr. Fisher's orders, not allowed by Mr. Benett, | 67 | 3 | 10 |
| | | | | By Cash paid the Gamekeeper | 20 | 4 | 0 |
| | | | | By Cash, expended on account of Manor-House, | 180 | 17 | 10½ |
| | | | | By Balance due and carried to the next half year's Account | 1089 | 4 | 0½ |
| | £1763 | 18 | 10½ | | £1763 | 18 | 10½ |
| To the balance of last Account brought on | 1089 | 4 | 0½ | 1816. *Michaelmas.* By half a year's Property Tax | 63 | 1 | 0 |
| 1816. *Michaelmas.* To half a year's Rent due Lady-day 1816, | 630 | 0 | 0 | By ditto Land-tax for Mill Lands and Great Tithes, | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | | By Bills of Disbursements, allowed for Buildings, Repairs, and other Work | 62 | 13 | 6½ |
| | | | | By a claim for Bill of Disbursements, and not allowed by Mr. Benett | 6 | 17 | 4½ |
| | | | | By Cash paid the Gamekeeper | 47 | 11 | 11 |
| | | | | By Balance due and carried to the next half year's Account | 1532 | 14 | 9½ |
| | £1719 | 4 | 0½ | | £1719 | 4 | 0½ |

| Dr. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1817. *Lady Day.* | | | |
| To the Balance of last Account brought on. | 1532 | 14 | 8½ |
| To half a year's Rent, due Michaelmas 1816. | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| | £2162 | 14 | 8½ |

| Cr. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1816. *Oct.* 28. | | | |
| By Cash on Account | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| *December* 26. | | | |
| By ditto | 196 | 6 | 5½ |
| 1817, *April* 1. | | | |
| By Bill claimed for Grass Seeds to be paid by coming on Tenant | 39 | 15 | 0 |
| By ditto for mixing ditto | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| By ditto, for ploughing and other work on farm | 223 | 1 | 2 |
| By ditto for Hoeing Turnips | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| By a Claim made by Mr. Fisher for 3 years Rent of Land on which the Manor House stood, and which ought to have been paid by Mr. Gibbs | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| By Cash on Account by a promissory note of hand, payable at the Banking-house of Messrs. Locke, Hughes, and Bannister, in Devizes, at 10 days after date, received in cash 14th April, 1817. | 694 | 15 | 0 |
| | £2162 | 14 | 8½ |

*Note.*—In the different Bills of Disbursements the Timber used in Repairs, &c. is not included, being partly purchased by Mr. Benett, and partly cut at Enford and Pythouse. The value was very considerable.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

CONCEIVING that the above account would be expected to appear in your Journal, I desired Mr. Chitty, my solicitor, to make it out as correctly as possible, which he has done. I have only to remark, that in the disbursements none of the timber which was cut and used on the estate, to a very considerable amount, as well as a great deal of the work which was prepared and done at Pythouse, is included, nor is a bill included to the amount of £123 12*s.* 8*d.* for oak and carpenters' work at the hatches in the new meadows, which was done by a person in this neighbourhood, and paid by myself. The whole charge for making the new meadow, exclusive of the above hatch-work, amounts to £374 14*s.* 11*d.* As the meadow does not contain seven acres, this extraordinary expenditure, under the control of Mr. Fisher, though far short of £600, could not be for my benefit.

Mr. Fisher, in his last letter, has evaded the most material points on the subject in discussion, that is, whether he got or lost money on my farm, and whether I did or did not turn him out of its possession.

I trust my Wiltshire friends will never believe I could have applied so absurd and abusive an expression to them as

Mr. Fisher asserts, which I never used, or except by his letter ever heard of. I will now leave the public to judge of his motives and conduct; and as I considered him to have united himself with others equally contemptible, who have, I trust, served my cause by their malevolent and vulgar abuse, I shall take no further notice of him.

I remain, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

*Pythouse, May* 8, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## WILTS ELECTION.

### *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

MR. LONG WELLESLEY not having declared what he meant by the "Notorious Quorum" alluded to in one of his addresses, nor named the Magistrates composing it,—We, the undersigned, *defy Mr. Long Wellesley, or any other person, to prove that we have at any time exercised the authority vested in us as Magistrates for the purpose of furthering our private views.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Wad. Locke | J. Fuller |
| J. R. Grossett | M. Joy |
| Thomas Hele Phipps | Edwd. H. Mortimer |
| Charles Lewis Phipps | J. Whittaker |
| George Edmonstone | Abraham Ludlow |
| Henry Bayntun | Wm. Temple. |

*7th May*, 1818.

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### *To W. Long Wellesley, Esq.*

CONCEIVING that I also belong to the Quorum Family, although my Christian name being "Anti" may appear to contradict it, I have sent you the following extract from Johnson's Dictionary, 2 vol. quarto, 6th edition, 1785, respecting the word *notorious*, which you have so freely used towards some branches of the family.

The extract is this:—"Notorious (adj. notorious, Lat.; notoire, Fr.) publicly known; evident to the world; apparent; not hidden—It is commonly used of *things* known to their disadvantage; whence *by those who do not know the true signification of the word*, an atrocious crime is called a notorious crime, public or secret!"

"The goodness of your intercepted packets, you writ to the Pope against the King; *your goodness, since you provoke me, shall be most notorious.*" *Shakspeare.*

Is it, Sir, in this latter sense, of Shakspeare, that you have used the ambiguous word notorious? Is it really your meaning that the goodness *of our Quorum Family* is most notorious? If so, I will not ask you to name the persons of whom the Quorum is composed, as my delicacy ought to forbid the question, and by asking it, I should probably become too notorious. Yours, obediently,

*April 29th*, 1818. ANTI-QUORUM.

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## WILTS ELECTION.

The freeholders of the county of Wilts, who are interested in supporting the independence thereof, will dine together at Marlborough, on Friday, the 22nd instant.

A large body of Electors having expressed an intention of being present, gentlemen wishing to join the party are requested to give notice to Mr. Shrimpton, of the Marlbro' Arms, that he may provide accordingly.

The chair will be taken by Fulwar Craven, Esq.; and Dinner on the table punctually at 4 o'clock.

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

Oh, Mr. Editor! when will this long-wished for dissolution take place?—What between *Old Moon-Rakers* and *New Moon-Rakers, Natives, Lunatics, Old Hearts, Grateful Tenants, Dissatisfied Tenants, Quorum, and Anti-Quorum*, your columns are filled; and if a stop is not put to this itch for writing, (by which nobody gains, except yourself and your brethren of the press), there will be no room left to advertise the last new invented blacking, or to tempt your readers by some new Lottery device. After all, how little to the purpose do all these scribblers occupy your pages! The freeholders of this great county merely wish to be told, in *few words*, the merits of the respective Candidates, and their comparative claims to our suffrages; and I think this may so easily be done, that although living in retirement and not in the secrets of clubs or quorum, I shall venture to state my reasons for giving *a plumper* to Mr. Long Wellesley.

I will first, however, shortly notice the other Candidates;—As to *Mr. Methuen*, we have heard nothing of him since the 26th of March. I presume, therefore, that he considers himself secure. But let him not be too confident; unless he can boast of pretensions equal to those of *my* favourite, he at least cannot expect to be at the *head* of the poll.

Then we have Mr. *Benett*. This gentleman has no recommendations, but the being a resident, country gentleman, of an old family; an active magistrate; an officer in the Yeomanry; president of the County Agricultural Society: as he has officiously attended to the local business of Wiltshire, and has no connection with, or interest in, any other county; as he has the misfortune to have the avowed opposition of that distinguished character, Mr. Henry Hunt, the chairman of the Spafields meetings; and as he is even *suspected* of having, at the last election, instigated Mr. Methuen to the daring step of canvassing the freeholders at large, without having the sanction of any clubs or committees; let us not become dupes to his shallow pretensions; no, Sir,

*Mr. Long Wellesley* is the man; he only is fit to be our member. Though his family is Irish, and he was born (I forgot where) yet Wiltshire is the home of his adoption. Since he married the opulent heiress of the *House of Draycot*, how unceasingly have his talents been exerted; how liberally has his fortune been expended, for the honour, the interest, and the happiness of his chosen county. He has been called a *new man*, and has been treated as if his present canvass were the first attention he had paid us; but we may appeal to Mr. R. Long, our present representative, who well knows that it is no new thought, for, so long ago as at the last general election, this gentleman had some idea of standing forward. The six years which have since elapsed, have shewn us his indefatigable attention to the business of the county, and his social and hospitable intercourse with its inhabitants, with all of whom this interval, so judiciously employed, has fortunately enabled him to become familiar. Then we have certificates of character, signed by Wiltshire tenants, Dorsetshire tenants, Hampshire tenants, Yorkshire tenants, and Essex (no, I am wrong; not Essex; I suppose that he farms the Essex estates himself; or that the letters of recommendation from his *nearest neighbours* have miscarried)—doubtless, all the spontaneous acts of their respective tenants. And, Sir, what a compliment is paid us, and can we reject the man who offers it? As Mr. Wellesley (in a most eloquent speech, to a company assembled after the last Devizes fair), has correctly stated:—He is "King of Essex," and could have represented *that* county, but he *rejected it*;—"Hampshire is under his feet;" and he could have been *their* member, but he despised it; he could have been *Lord Devizes*, or *Lord Devizes Market-cross*, or *Lord Anything*; but, no: to be knight of the shire for Wilts,—the great, the independent county of Wilts, where no Government influence is threatened, no union of family interest, for the purpose of keeping up a *Long* succession of members, has

been attempted; where the Treasury, Sir Francis Burdett, and Mr. Hunt, all coalesce in his favour; *this* is the summit of his noble daring. Then who are his opponents? The majority, forsooth, of the resident country gentlemen and yeomanry;—a set of foolish magistrates, who have gone about canvassing with the clerk of the peace, constables with white wands, and all the staff of the sessions, at their head, to shew their "*magisterial pomp;*" and have deprived *wrong-sided* publicans of their licenses, and committed qualified freeholders, as poachers, &c. to shew how well they exercise their "*magisterial authority;*" and who (as is most notorious) give up less time, and take less trouble, for the service of the public, while they are *better paid for it*, than any other class of men. How much more respectably is Mr. Wellesley attended in *his* canvass; he does not call in the aid of country gentlemen, magistrates, and yeomanry, but is constantly accompanied by grave and reverend divines; who, whether in the fairs and markets, or becomingly assisting at "double encores" to festive songs, never appeared to be more in their *proper place.*

There is, to be sure, one thing which my neighbours at Bradford urge against Mr. Wellesley;—that he voted *for the Corn-Bill;* but did not Mr. Benett speak in favour of some foolish measure of the same sort? and we all know how much more harm must have been done by a speech in Warminster market, than by a vote in the House of Commons.

I flatter myself that the force of my reasoning will secure Mr. Wellesley's election by a triumphant majority; and that this letter will supersede the necessity of again inserting in your paper fourteen advertisements on the same side of the question.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

*Trowbridge, May* 11. AN OBSERVER.

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*To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

AFTER the determination I had made in my last letter, I feel it necessary to apologize for my again occupying so large a space in your paper; but in justification of my character, I am again called forth before the public to give a *true* copy of the account between myself and Mr. Bennett, which is as follows:

JOHN BENETT, Esq. *in account with* Mr. JOHN FISHER, *as to Enford Farm.*

| Dr. | £. | s. | d. | Cr. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1812—*Michaelmas.* | | | | 1812.—*Michaelmas.* | | | |
| To half a year's Property-tax | 42 | 10 | 0 | By half a year's rent up to Lady-Day, 1812, | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| To Bills of Disbursements for Buildings, Repairs, and other work, as per vouchers delivered | 517 | 0 | 7 | | | | |
| To Cash paid Mr. Newbold, for Swedish Turnip-seed, for Mr. B.'s use, as per bill February 1st | 11 | 9 | 0 | | | | |
| To clear Cash paid as balance to Michaelmas | 59 | 0 | 5 | | | | |
| | £630 | 0 | 0 | | £630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1813—*Lady-day.* | | | | 1813.—*Lady-Day.* | | | |
| To half a year's Property-tax | 63 | 0 | 0 | By half a year's rent up to Michaelmas, 1812, | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| To Bills of Disbursements for Buildings, Repairs, and other work, as per vouchers delivered | 189 | 8 | 10 | | | | |
| To Receipt-stamp | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | |
| To clear Cash paid as balance to Lady-day | 377 | 6 | 2 | | | | |
| | £630 | 0 | 0 | | £630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1813—*Michaelmas.* | | | | 1813.—*Michaelmas.* | | | |
| To half a year's Property-tax | 63 | 0 | 0 | By half a year's rent up to Lady-Day, 1813, | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| To half a year's Land-tax | 6 | 5 | 6 | By cash over paid in rent up to Michaelmas, 1813, | 74 | 6 | 0 |
| To Bills of Disbursements for Buildings, Repairs, and other work, as per vouchers delivered | 413 | 4 | 6 | | | | |
| To Cash paid Gamekeeper, per Mr. B.'s order | 21 | 16 | 0 | | | | |
| To clear Cash paid at Michaelmas | 200 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | £704 | 6 | 0 | | £704 | 6 | 0 |
| To clear Cash due to me on Rent, as balance up to Michaelmas 1813 | 74 | 6 | 0 | 1814.—*Lady-Day.* | | | |
| | | | | By half a year's rent up to Michaelmas, 1813, | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1814—*Lady-day.* | | | | | | | |
| To half a year's Property-tax | 63 | 1 | 0 | | | | |
| To ditto Land-tax | 6 | 5 | 6 | | | | |
| To Bills of Disbursements for Buildings, Repairs, and other work, as per vouchers delivered | 109 | 9 | 9½ | | | | |
| To ditto, ditto, allowed for Repairs of Cottages, &c. not belonging to Enford Farm | 48 | 1 | 8½ | | | | |
| To Cash paid Gamekeeper | 10 | 9 | 10 | | | | |
| To Receipt-stamp | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | |
| To Cash paid, as balance to Lady-day | 318 | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| | £630 | 0 | 0 | | £630 | 0 | 0 |

| Dr. | | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Bills of Disbursements, as per vouchers delivered to Mr. Benett from Lady-day 1814, to Michaelmas 1815 . . | | 216 | 10 | 5½ |
| To Bills of Disbursements, as per vouchers delivered, on account of New Manor House, Enford . . | | 242 | 14 | 4 |
| To three half year's Land and Property Taxes, as per Receipts delivered . . | | 208 | 0 | 5 |
| To Cash paid Mr. Benett's Gamekeeper at sundry times from Lady-day 1814, to Michaelmas 1815, as per orders | | 85 | 5 | 3½ |
| 1814, *Nov.* 12.—Cash on account of Rent . | £350 | | | |
| 1815, *June* 16.—Ditto . . | 50 | | | |
| *Oct.* 17.—Ditto . . | 205 | | | |
| *Dec.* 31.—Ditto . . | 50 | | | |
| | | 655 | 0 | 0 |
| To balance due to Michaelmas 1815 . . . . | | 482 | 9 | 6 |
| | | £1890 | 0 | 0 |

| Cr. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1814.—*Michaelmas.* By half a year's rent up to Lady-Day, 1814, . | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1815.—*Lady-Day.* By half a year's rent up to Michaelmas, 1814, . | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1815.—*Michaelmas.* By half a year's rent up to Lady-Day, 1815, . | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| | £1890 | 0 | 0 |
| 1815.—*Michaelmas.* By Bal. brought down . | 482 | 9 | 6 |
| 1816.—*Lady-Day.* By half a year's rent up to Michaelmas, 1815, . | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| 1816.—*Michaelmas.* By half a year's rent up to Lady-Day, 1816, . | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| Carried over | £1742 | 9 | 6 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1816, *April* 12.—Keeper, as per order | £12 | 17 | 0 | | | |
| *June* 10.—Ditto . | 18 | 10 | 9 | | | |
| *Aug.* 3.—Ditto . | 16 | 4 | 2 | | | |
| | | | | 47 | 11 | 11 |
| *July* 9.—To a Note of Hand at four months for £1000 . | | | | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| *Michs.* To Disbursements for Repairs, &c. as per vouchers, to Michaelmas 1816 . | | | | 16 | 19 | 8½ |
| To Disbursements, as per vouchers, on account of Manor House . . . | | | | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| Cash paid for Grass-seeds, by Mr. Benett's order, as per Bills . . | £39 | 18 | | | | |
| Mixing and sowing the same . . | | 2 | 10 | | | |
| | | | | 42 | 3 | 0 |
| Cash paid for labour, cleaning land for sowing Turnips, by Mr. Benett's order . . | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| To two half year's Property and Land Taxes, as per Receipts | | | | 188 | 14 | 0 |
| *Dec.* 26.—To Cash on account of Rent . . . | | | | 196 | 6 | 5½ |
| Carried over | | | | £1450 | 5 | 4 |

| Dr. | £. | s. | d. | Cr. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brought over | 1450 | 5 | 4 | Brought over | 1742 | 9 | 6 |
| Amount of valuation, per Mr. Hayward | 223 | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| 1817, *April* 1.—To three year's Rent of the Land given up to Mr. B. for building Manor House on, the Quit-rent of which ought to be received of the Tenant at Court | 4 | 10 | 0 | 1817.—*Lady-Day.* By the half year's rent in hand up to Michaelmas, 1816, and due as per agreement in Lease Lady-Day, 1817. | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| To Bill at ten days for balance, payable at Messrs. Locke, Hughes, and Co. | 694 | 13 | 0 | | | | |
| | £2372 | 9 | 6 | | £2372 | 9 | 6 |

I am ready to make affidavit that the above is a correct account.

After having received the letter which Mr. Chitty alludes to of the 19th Dec. 1816, I received one from Mr. Benett, dated the 29th of the same month, desiring me to send him £500, which of course I refused to do; as there was not that sum due to him at that time, after deducting the work done by Mr. Benett's express orders, before Mr. Fay took the farm, and the letters to that effect, I have now in my possession, but I sent him what I considered as the balance. Mr. Chitty then wrote for £340. 13*s*. 5*d*. which he considered as the balance due to Michaelmas, which sum if I did not remit in a few days he said he would distrain for. I therefore leave the public to judge of the civility of his application. Upon this I put the matter into the hands of my solicitor; and the last three years running account was settled by them in my presence at the Deptford Inn, on the 1st of April, 1817, in the same way as stated above; and Mr. Chitty expressed his perfect satisfaction with the correctness of it, as produced by me, and now in his possession. As to the other matters in dispute, relative to the valuation not being paid by Mr. B. I must refer the public to my former letters. I admit that there was an error in the charge of half a year's property-tax, which was immediately corrected upon being pointed out. With respect to the two material points Mr. B. says I have evaded, it must be evident to every practical farmer in that neighbourhood, that I sunk a considerable sum of money on Mr. B's. farm, and Mr. B. is also aware of it himself, for he has frequently told me I could not, in those times, make any thing for rent; and still he has had every sixpence of his rent. As to continuing on Enford farm, I declare, I never had an opportunity of taking it again, in any other way except at the same rent. I can prove Mr. B. did make use of the expression relative to the inhabitants of Wilts, as stated by me in my last letter. I also defy Mr. B. to prove that any of the assertions contained in my former

letters are incorrect. It is but natural that Mr. Benett should express his contempt for one who has so fully *proved* him contemptible; but he has to thank himself and his agents; for I can assure him and them that I should never have ventured in a public print, but in self vindication. With regard to the insinuations of the Old Moon-Raker, I here solemnly assert, that I have never had any communications, either directly or indirectly, with Mr. Wellesley, relative to the disputes at issue; and that the whole expenses attendant on the vindication of my character, are paid by myself.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

*Allcannings, May* 13, 1818. JOHN FISHER.

*Note.*—The New Manor House was built chiefly from the timber Mr. B. cut down upon his estate at Enford.

Mr. Fisher takes this opportunity of publicly thanking an unknown friend, signed a South Wilts Freeholder, for his letter and remarks on the matter between Mr. Benett and himself.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

### IN THE COUNTY COURT.

FISHER *against* BENETT.

"And the dirt came out."—Judges ch. 8, v. 22.

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GENTLEMEN,

You may, if you please, call this my first letter on Dirt. It is not the first that I have written on such a subject—many a dirty subject has come under my cognizance; but this is dirt of a peculiar kind, and exposed under peculiar circumstances, and therefore were I even to travel a little out of my way to take it up, and so dispose of it, as to fructify the cause of independence, you would not, I am sure, consider your time mispent in following me, in observing my motions, and in profiting by my example.—At all events, gentlemen, you will not suppose, I hope, that there is any thing like disrespect, intended to you in my presenting you nothing but dirt, for your entertainment. The sun that gilds the towers of Fonthill, also illumines the desolations of Wardour, nor compromises the lustre of his character, by throwing around the fungus, those rays which gave brilliance, and taught obedience to the sun-flower! In fact, gentlemen, the subject has forced itself upon me, and if by the introduction of it I shall be enabled to keep the freeholders of Wilts from participating in a dirty job, I shall not think that I have engaged your attention in vain, nor spent an hour unprofitably.

It was my intention, before I felt it my duty to address

you on this subject, to have offered you a few remarks on the superannuated ravings of the Moon-Raker, and upon those specimens of *original* composition which W. W. Salmon thought proper first to "intrude," and then to "obtrude" upon your notice; but these for the present I must defer. There is another document with respect to which I am left in considerable difficulty, and that is the consummately ridiculous address of some of the Quorumites to Mr. Wellesley, demanding information to whom he referred when he spake of the *notorious* Quorum! Whether this application arose from the desire of the gentlemen who signed it, to acquaint the world, that they were magistrates or not; whether it arose from their ambition to share with friend Fulwar the honour of *advertising*, or from an over-weening anxiety to do something in aid of the good cause, or otherwise, I cannot for the soul of me discover. They had some motive, no doubt—probably to become ridiculous! If so, they have attained the completion of their wishes, without exciting the smallest portion of envy. They have now become most conspicuously *notorious;* and what is more, have *paid* for being so! How preposterous to blame Mr. Wellesley for describing them by an epithet, which they have been emulous to deserve! Which W. W. Salmon, and after him John Bennet account an honour! These gentlemen tell you, as no small feather in their caps, that they are "well known;" that is, that they are in fullest sense of the term, *notorious!* Nay, gentlemen, they go farther, they say they are "*too* well known!" What they mean by this phrase I really cannot say, this they must explain themselves; I may possibly attempt it on some future occasion. I know what meaning the "*common vulgar*" attach to it, but that can in no way be applicable to such gentlemen as Mr. Benett or Mr. Salmon; men so *notorious* throughout the county for talent and learning, for piety and morality, for the practice of every virtue that can raise or ornament the mind. At present, gentlemen, a subject of another kind claims my attention and yours; and when I tell you that I go to the consideration of it with extreme regret, I but tell you the real sentiments of my mind, I but express the feelings which possess my breast.

Gentlemen, the words which I have selected for my motto, refer to a transaction, that took place in Israel, when that nation was occasionally under the dominion of Judges, or leaders raised up by providence for the government and protection of that people, before the appointment of the regal order amongst them. And, by the bye, if there are any sceptics at the present day, with regard to the superiority of *hereditary* over *elective* governments, let them retire; let them

read the Book of Judges, "and be no more faithless but believing." I shall not apologize for this digression, but observe that after the death of Othniel, Israel became subject to Eglon the king of Moab, who was a very fat man, and who grievously oppressed them for eighteen years. Ehud a Benjamite (it is not said that he was a *native* or *resident* in the place from which he was sent, but yet he was employed) at the end of that period, was sent to carry the present or accustomed tribute which he exacted, and then took an opportunity of stabbing the king, and on which it is said "the dirt came out."

Now, gentlemen, you are in some respects precisely in the situation of ancient Israel. You are not oppressed by the government of your country, (though you are taught to despise its *interest*;) you are not oppressed by a foreign foe, but as it not unfrequently happens, you find in your own case, that "a man's enemies are those of his own house." Your oppressors are to be found among yourselves; they belong to your county—are *natives* and *residents*—and bring forward *nativity* as a plea for their usurpation! The privilege of *beggers* is denied you; they are allowed to tell their complaints, but as you have an opportunity of doing this only by your representatives, this right is denied you, unless you will exercise it in the way that they shall direct, or through the medium that they choose to provide. They usurp a supremacy over the mind—the *mind*, which other tyrants have left free! —Like Eglon—they are *fat*, *very* fat men; ready to burst with *honour* and *independence!* Men of great note! "Too well known!" yet extremely modest, blushing at being thought *notorious*! Listen to their tale: beyond their secret conclave, there is neither talent nor integrity, property nor principle! They have gone on in this way for *eighteen*—O! no, Israel had the advantage of you there! eighteen! they have sat as your oppressors for these *forty* years, ugly as the night-mare, and dismal as desolation! They expected that you, gentlemen, the high spirited freeholders of Wilts, would continue to run at their beckon, and kneel at their nod; that you would be duped by their professions, and overawed by their power; that you would continue to believe them to be the great men that they had represented themselves to be, and would be ready to pluck out every tongue that should move against them!—Like Eglon in his summer parlour, they were sitting alone, every thing was going on smoothly; the "Independent Freeholder" spreading his calumnies, and pouring out his lamentations! The chandler-shop gossips of Devizes enlivening with their's the second childhood of the Moon-Raker! Every thing that was vile,

belonged to Mr. Wellesley; every thing pure and virtuous, liberal and enlightened, belonged to Mr. Benett; a forgiving husband, a kind master, a most considerate landlord! When lo! in one moment! the Dagon of their idolatry, the Eglon of their usurpation, exhibits a spectacle, which at once gives the lie to all their assertions, and levels the tabernacle of their tyranny with the dust! The greatest effects, gentlemen, are sometimes produced by the most unlikely means, or by means in themselves the most apparently inadequate; a little spark kindles a great fire; and the pen of John Fisher of Enford, (certainly not a *goose*-quill), one of those illiterate, despised, contemptible beings, called farmers; men who have an *a* stuck before their names, as we say, *a* rat, *a* mouse, *a* gnat, *a* worm, "*a* Mr. John Fisher," has accomplished an enterprise as great as that of Ehud's; his pen, like the dagger of the Jewish chieftain, has entered the idol of honour and independence which the junta had set up, "the dirt" has come "out;" every thing is exposed that was cautiously concealed, and it is now your duty and mine, (though not a very pleasant job), to analyse the substances; to separate between "the precious and the vile," to discern on which side lies the truth, and wherever we shall find falsehood, oppression, injustice, or inhumanity, to reprobate it accordingly.

Gentlemen, if integrity was not its own reward, if it did not afford a *present* gratification for some of these sacrifices, which feeling and friendship are compelled sometimes to make to truth, it would soon be banished from the list of human virtues, and become an exile from the bosom and the abodes of men. It would generate nothing but pain, and load existence with a burthen, which it provided nothing to support. Happily for the world this is not the case. The consciousness of having done our duty to the best of our knowledge and ability, makes an ample amends for every difficulty we have to encounter, for all those conflicts which take place between the mind and the heart, when the latter would oppose the endearments of friendship to the omnipotence of truth. This is precisely the situation in which I am placed at present, midway between duty and friendship. To secure at least my own approbation, I shall sacrifice sensibility at the shrine of truth; prefer my country to my friend, and convince you how little the partialities of the heart have to do with patriotism. Not that I am insensible to them, not that I do not prize them; but I love the county better; I prefer its honour and its interest to them all. It is not, therefore, because I love Cæsar *less*, but because I love Rome *more*, that I request your serious attention to the subsequent observations.

You will recollect, gentlemen, that in the first letter I did myself the honour to address to you, that I there stated my firm conviction that Mr. J. Benett was a fit and proper person to represent your county in parliament. I knew him to be a man of talent, a decided man, and believed him to be a man of a highly independent mind, and of unsullied honour. Acting up to such a belief, I warmly recommended him to your notice; and being unknown as the author of that address, I had an opportunity of pressing upon the consideration of my friends the observations it contained.—It was with no small degree of surprise and regret that I shortly found that the independence of which Mr. Benett had spoken, was of that kind which reflects no great honour upon the possessor; in fact, gentlemen, it was nothing but the most abject and slavish dependence; instead of trusting to his personal merits (and I have some opinion of them); instead of throwing himself on the good sense of the county, and who would have returned this act of confidence with interest; he throws himself into the arms of the very faction who have tyrannised over the county for these forty years, and who have converted its elective franchise into a mere farce. This self-appointed Ephori presided over the destinies of Wilts; selected, nominated, returned its members; while the freeholders had just as much share in the election, as they had in the dinner that followed it. Yet, gentlemen, it is not strange that though by such conduct, you were deprived of one of your dearest rights as Englishmen and Wiltshire freeholders, a right on which all the others depend, that there should be found wretches mean enough, base enough, to persuade or to attempt to persuade you into a belief that such a state of things is the best! Such was the object of the "Independent Freeholder; he, good man, was such a friend to sobriety, that he wished you to have no election at all, for fear that you should take a drop too much, and, like some of the folks of Cricklade, take a roll in the kennel, kick up a row, and take an evening's repose in the watch-house! Good soul! this was his way of preserving entire and uncontaminated the rights of his county; and I dare say that he would much sooner see England become a province of France, than spend a penny for gunpowder, or hear the report of a musket! Such too, is the evident object of old square toes at Swindon, who concludes a most tremendously stupid story, with a more ridiculous signature, attempting to awaken the love of slavery by a term of reproach! As if after the abominable state of degradation into which the faction had sunk the county, any name was good enough for a man of Wilts! Nothing upon the earth can be more ludicrous, than to hear him incessantly

pining after the halycon days of 1772, the Augustan age of the old dotard's politics! Nothing but 1772! Blessed 1772! Glorious 1772! These were the days for cocked hats, bob-wigs, saltbox pockets, and every thing important to county independence!—Knew nothing of Day and Martin's Blacking then; marched to the hustings with shoes soaked in train oil; while some preferred hog's lard, because it was a *native*, and had been a *resident* of the county!!!

Such is the way, gentlemen, in which these two Luminaries of the West, would dazzle you out of your independence! With regard to the first, I shall say no more; as a gentleman who signs himself "Candidus," is treating the superlative nonsense of that poor creature in the only way in which it ought to be treated, namely, by exposing to ridicule, what is of itself, in the fullest sense of the term, *ridiculous*! With regard to Master Moon-Raker, as he signs himself a *fool*, he shall have full right to all the privileges and immunities of the character; and you and I, gentlemen, shall yet have many a laugh at his expense. I am, however, in no laughing humour with him now: the concluding paragraph in his letter of yesterday deserves the severest animadversion. His reasoning there, gentlemen (if you think such *trash* can have any thing to do with reason), goes to prove the necessity of electing *Wiltshire* gentlemen, *whatever their characters may be*! Now, gentlemen, what think you of this? Is the Moon-Raker a fool? Is he something else? I defy any person to put another construction upon his language than I have done; his meaning stares you in the face, and his letters and himself ought to be consigned to perpetual obloquy! But you are aware of the cause, gentlemen: a little *dirt* has come out, and some of it seems to stick pretty securely to some of our independent Wiltshire gentlemen of "high honour!" Amongst the rest, Fisher's letter bears heavily; it is working its way; it is gaining proselytes by wholesale; and the Moon-Raker, instead of defending his friend, takes it for granted that every word is true; and says to you, gentlemen, as Agesilaus said to the Spartan judge, "If Nicias be not guilty, acquit him for his innocence—if he be, acquit him for *my* sake; *but however it be, acquit him*!" Gentlemen, the Moon-Raker goes farther than the "Spartan king—he says, not merely acquit him, but invest him with the honour you can confer; entrust him with the dearest interests you possess! Don't you think, gentlemen, that this Moon-Raker is a very modest man? You will be convinced of it by the time that we have examined Mr. Fisher's letter and Mr. Benett's reply; one thing, however, keep in mind—that since Mr. Benett has surrendered

his independence into the hands of the Quorum, and the club, that if every letter in Mr. Fisher's letter were as true as the sun is bright, and every offence charged in it as black as perdition itself, in such a contemptible light do they hold you, that they would force him upon you, if you were stupid enough to submit to it, merely to preserve their usurped authority, and to shew you in what a degraded light they consider the character of a Wiltshire freeholder!

Gentlemen, when Mr. Fisher's letter was first put into my hand, it was not in my power to give it an attentive perusal; but yet the very transient glimpse I had of its contents, was sufficient to satisfy me that unless the charges of Mr. Fisher were met by a positive denial on the part of Mr. Benett, they must prove fatal to his cause. I most anxiously wished that Mr. Benett should deny them, and by no means attempt to set off one charge against another—a species of reckoning in the moral world which always leaves the balance uncertain. Mr. Benett has taken the latter mode, and has thus contributed to establish, what it should have been his chief object to overturn. I shall first consider Mr. Fisher's charges against Mr. Benett, and then Mr. Benett's complaints against Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Fisher charges Mr. Benett with having, during his canvass through the county, represented him to the freeholders as being indebted to him in a sum of no less than five thousand pounds.

Now, gentlemen, if Mr. Benett did do this; if he did positively assert, or only insinuate, that Mr. Fisher was in his debt, knowing him at the same time not to be so, he was guilty of a very base and dishonourable action; but if Mr. Benett did so represent Mr. Fisher, when, so far from Mr. Fisher being in Mr. Benett's debt, the case was the reverse, I know no language sufficiently strong, in which to reprobate such conduct! If I prove to you that such really was the case, I think you will pause before you promise your support; and, even if you have promised it, will not so far compromise your regard to truth and fair dealing as to give your vote to any candidate, who could descend to such odious means of acquiring the suffrages of honourable and honest men. Gentlemen, Mr. Fisher has given you and I a very circumstantial account of all his pecuniary transactions with Mr. Benett. You will find by it that there was very little probability of Mr. Fisher ever becoming in debt to him; for in point of fact, the rent, or by far the greater part of it, was always paid *before it became due*! You know very well, gentlemen, that when a landlord is continually overdrawing his tenant—when every bill that is presented at the mansion is

sent to the farm, it leaves very little to pay on audit-day. Now this was constantly the case with Mr. Benett: and it is a strong fact for your consideration, whether any person under such circumstances can be possessed of that independence in point of *property*, which is necessary as a collateral security for his independence in point of conduct, if returned to parliament. With all his land, gentlemen, Mr. Benett appears to be necessitous; and it is not, surely, to a man in such circumstances that the county of Wilts can safely look up as a representative. Mr. Benett might, no doubt, discharge his duty in Parliament with integrity; but there is less danger of defection when a man is placed by fortune above the reach of temptation.

The conduct of Mr. Benett himself is a clear and convincing proof, that in his own judgment Mr. Fisher owed him nothing. In all the conversations noticed by both parties, there is no mention, not even a whisper, about any monies owing by Fisher; no demand made by Mr. Benett on the one hand—no promise to pay Mr. Fisher on the other. Is not this strange, gentlemen? Had Mr. Fisher in reality owed Mr. Benett any money, when the former threw up his lease, is it not strange that Mr. Benett did not say, "When do you mean to pay me what you owe," or something like it? But no! nothing of this kind takes place: in fact, there was no necessity for it; Fisher owed no money, and consequently had nothing to pay! But supposing that Mr. Benett on that occasion *forgot* to ask for his right (and it is not very likely that he who always remembered to ask for it *before* it was due, should have been troubled with a shortness of memory *after* it was payable); is it not strange that he did not let Fisher plough the land even at 14*s*, per acre, as that would always have been some set-off against the sum which Mr. Fisher owed, "in justice" owed him? But no! even this would not do! The fact is, that Mr. Fisher owed him nothing; "the boot was on the other leg!" Mr. Fisher distinctly charges Mr. Benett with being in his debt; he particularises for what it has been incurred; but does not mention any offer, and far less any *prospect* of payment. Mr. Benett does not contradict this: in fact, there is not one statement Mr. Fisher has made that is contradicted; it is not one of those accounts that can be contradicted—it is a plain but stubborn tale! Mr. Fisher owes Mr. Benett nothing—Mr. Benett owes Mr. Fisher something: how much, we shall know another day. Now, gentlemen, in such a state of things, for Mr. Benett to circulate a report (either by himself or by his accredited agents) so injurious to the credit of Mr. Fisher, as that he owed Mr. Benett five thousand pounds,

while he did not owe him a farthing, but, on the contrary, was, and is, in Fisher's debt, is an act (to give it the softest name) of impropriety which I have no doubt, gentlemen, you will recollect when occasion serves. But did Mr. Benett actually do this? If I do not prove it, you shall be at liberty to consider me such another jackass as the Old Moon-Raker; but my limits will not allow me to enter upon this part of my subject till next week.

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful friend,

*Hindon, May 4*, 1818. TITUS TRUEMAN.

## WILTS COUNTY ELECTION.

### *Mr. Wellesley's Dinner.*

(From a Gentleman who attended.)

It having been announced in the county papers that the friends of Mr. Wellesley intended dining together at the Castle Inn, Marlborough, kept by Mr. Cooper, on Friday, the 8th May; about two o'clock the company began to assemble, and at five o'clock two hundred and fifty sat down to dinner. The cloth was laid in the great dining and adjoining room, which had been previously decorated with laurel, while the mirrors exhibited various inscriptions, judiciously selected, and highly appropriate. The table exhibited a profusion of every thing that was good; and Mr. Cooper had been no niggard of his industry to produce it in the best manner. The lovers of venison had a treat, for in size and flavour, some of the old ones said it excelled all they had ever seen or tasted. The wines were of the best quality, and the supply was most ample. Mr. Cooper had made all his arrangements with so much propriety and attention to comfort, that the company were not disappointed in anticipating a good dinner, and a pleasant party. Captain Goddard, a relative of Mr. Goddard, of Swindon, the representative of our late revered member, was in the chair, which he filled with equal ability and urbanity, and was ably seconded in his efforts by Capt. Nicholas, who sat opposite to him. To render the treat a complete one, in order that nothing might be wanting, Mr. Jolly, of London, Mr. Loder, of Bath, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Lacy, and Mr. Foster, of Salisbury, were all engaged, and contributed by the frequent and loudly cheered display of their professional qualities, for which they have so long and so justly been celebrated, to prolong and heighten the pleasures of the evening with the science and the sentiments of song. When the cloth was removed they sang *Non Nobis, Domine*, in a most superior style; after which the worthy chairman gave

"Church and King," with three times three; "The Prince Regent;" after which was given the Hero of Waterloo, or rather of Europe, "Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington." It is needless to say that this toast was drank with three times three. After which, Mr. Wellesley addressed the company, assuring them that he felt highly gratified by the respect they had paid to his noble relative; observing that it was unnecessary for him to expatiate upon what every body in the world were acquainted with; the world had endeavoured to shew the sense they entertained of his services, and his country more. One honour, however, remained for him; it was to be toasted by the freeholders of Wilts; and he trusted, that he himself, while he felt proud in owning the illustrious connection, that whatever might be the situations in which by accident or choice he might be placed, that his conduct would never reflect disgrace on the man, on whom England and Europe had heaped the most distinguished honours. This short address was received with the most cordial approbation; after which an appropriate glee was sung, and the chairman proposed "The Health of Mrs. Long Wellesley." This toast received the same attention as the former; on which Mr. Wellesley returned thanks in nearly the following words;

"Gentlemen, if in returning you thanks for drinking to the health of a lady to whom I owe so much, and who is so justly endeared to me, I should betray an expression of unmanly feeling," [here Mr. W. was so overcome by his subject that he could not proceed, while the cheering of the company showed that he received their sympathy], "if (he resumed) I betray any thing like unmanly feeling, (if the honest feelings of nature can be thought unmanly) it is at the way in which the health of Mrs. Wellesley has been drank; at the way in which the calumnies of my enemies have been answered by you this day. The toast you have given, is a proof in what estimation you hold them, and justifies the contempt with which I have all along treated them. They have assailed me in every way, and aiming a mortal blow at my domestic peace and happiness, attempted, by giving circulation to their falsehoods, to render me contemptible in the eyes of Mrs. Wellesley, and, consequently, both of us mutually miserable. Gentlemen, I am no more than a man; but I am a man;—I claim the feeling and the principles of a man; though I must be the most horrid monster on the face of the earth, if I were even in a limited and qualified sense, any thing of what they represent me! I repeat it, that I must be the most horrid monster on the face of the earth, if I were capable of treating with disrespect, or even with indifference; or, leaving these out of the question, if I

did not treat with the utmost affection and esteem, a lady to whom I am under such great, such lasting, such binding obligations! Gentlemen, I shall not express to you my indignation at the conduct of these secret destroyers of character; I'll not indulge the feeling now—I am in the midst of my friends—my enemies are not here—when I face them (*bravo! bravo!*) then I'll tell them what I think their conduct merits; and that I hope I shall soon have the pleasure of doing on the hustings. Gentlemen, I am not a quarrelsome man; I have given proofs of my forbearance; but if I am regardless of *my own* honour, can it be at all expected that I should be anxious about yours? (*bravo! bravo!*) For their infamous reproaches I care nothing; they have failed, most completely failed in their object; they have produced an opposite effect. It is to their calumnies in a great degree that I owe my success; and where the freeholders were previously engaged, the respect with which I have been uniformly treated, and the regret which in almost every instance has been expressed for that priority of obligation to which their words had subjected them, I am in a great degree indebted to their treatment of me. Gentlemen, is it not in a great degree to the way in which I have been treated, that I have now the pleasure of addressing you, and that too on such a subject? It is the belief that toasting the health of Mrs. Wellesley would be grateful to me, that you proposed it; I cannot—it is impossible I should—be able to express the sense of the respect you have paid to her, of the compliment you have paid to me; if it is possible to stretch language beyond its meaning, to give it a force which it never before conveyed, but of which it may be capable, I trust that with this faithful but enlarged etymology you will receive my thanks for drinking the Health of Mrs. Long Wellesley."

Through the whole of this speech Mr. Wellesley was warmly cheered; the company entered into his feelings, and manifested their indignation at the mean and unmanly conduct of his opponents.—The glee, "Here's a health to all good Lasses," followed; it was sung with fine effect; after which the chairman gave the health of Mr. Long Wellesley's Son and Heir. This being drank with three times three, Mr. Wellesley again rose and addressed the meeting, thanking them for the honour they had done him in drinking the health of his son. He observed that they had taken the most happy method of laying him under obligations to them; first by toasting the mother, and then her son. "Though he," said Mr. W. smiling, "poor boy, like his ill-fated father, has the misfortune not to be a *native* of the county, I am resolved,

by educating him in Wilts, to make him a *resident* in it; and I trust, that in copying the example of integrity and independence, that I shall endeavour to set before him, that he will receive from the freeholders the same affectionate testimonies of regard that his father is receiving from you at the present moment." (*Hear! hear!*)—After this short but apposite address, another glee was sung, and the chairman gave the health of Mr. Long Wellesley, which was drank with enthusiasm. When the din of affection had subsided, Mr. Wellesley rose, and thus addressed the freeholders:—"Gentlemen, in rising to thank you for the very flattering manner in which you have drank my health; when I consider my short acquaintance with you; and, above all, the way in which some of my friends or foes took pains to recommend me to you; considering that I had no *great men* to take me by the hand—*no men in office* to canvass for me, I cannot help saying that this is the proudest moment of my existence! Can any thing on earth be supposed more gratifying, than to see a stranger—a stranger, whom the pestilential breath of calumny had endeavoured to render obnoxious to your sight, and odious to your minds—I say, can any thing be supposed more gratifying, than to see myself surrounded—supported—cheered—by those very persons whom the malignancy of my enemies had attempted to influence, but on whom their efforts had been practised in vain? When I look around me, and see such a respectable body of the freeholders of Wilts, assembled together to testify their respect for me—for me, whom they had by the basest methods been instructed to hate—it inspires a feeling to which I cannot give utterance, but which I shall cherish to the latest moment of my life. (*Hear! hear!*) Gentlemen, the malice of a man's enemies, is on some occasions productive of benefit to him, as well as the kindness of friends. In my case, both are united; and I promise myself the happiest results. It was objected to me, on my appearance amongst you, that I was unknown; no person knew from whence I came; yet they took care to insinuate, by their calumnies, that I did not *descend from the clouds*—that I was not of *celestial* origin! Knowing, however, that I must have been born somewhere, another of them took care to provide me with a birth-place; and, though it happened to be in the wrong place, a third comes forward and raises an objection to me on that ground, asserting that the freeholders of Wilts ought not to give their support to a man who was not a native of England, but an Irishman; as if, gentlemen, two nations acknowledged one by the constitution of the country—two nations who had fought together, (*bravo! bravo!*) bled together—triumphed together!

were to be united every where else but in your county! (*Hear! hear! hear!*) When this charge was abandoned, they had another ready, and, if possible, more ridiculous than the other; and that was no other than this—that I was not a *native* of *this* county! Why, gentlemen, I acknowledge, since I have travelled through your county—since I have seen you at your homes—since I see you here—I do regret that I am not a native of Wilts. (*cheering.*) But, gentlemen, you know, that as every Englishman could not have been born in the county of Wilts, and as none of us are consulted before our births as to the place which we would prefer for our introduction into the world; ought it to be a valid objection to any man, otherwise qualified, that he should not serve his country in one place, because he was born in another—that he should not extinguish a fire in Hants, because he was a man of Wilts? Can any thing be more preposterous? It is depriving an Englishman of his birth-right—the happiness of serving his country in any place where he may conceive those services may be made the most extensively useful. (*bravo!*) Had I been at all consulted with regard to my appearing in the world, I should no doubt have given a preference to the county of Wilts, and I hope none of my enemies would have interposed to prevent it! But though not a native of the county of Wilts, I have the soul of an Englishman—though not a native, I am, by my union with a lady of extensive property in your county, *allied* to nativity; and should my conduct merit your approbation, I hope I shall be adopted into your family, and I shall endeavour to be a very dutiful son. (*Hear! hear!*)

But, gentlemen, what says the law with regard to the construction of the House of Commons? Where do you find it said that *nativity* or *residence* shall form the basis of qualification? *Property* is the only qualification the law looks at, let that property be situated where it may. The place of birth, or even residence, was never contemplated by them as points of importance, for they wisely considered that England was one great family, and had a common right to the service of all its members. (*Hear, hear!*) Even, then, gentlemen, upon this ground I am eligible to become the representative of any county in England; and being eligible, I have a right to offer my services to any body of men, and to serve for any place where I think I may be useful. I have a right to make the offer; and there is no right which I possess, as an Englishman, which I have not the courage to assert! (*Bravo!*) I have been induced to make that offer to you, gentlemen, in common with your brother freeholders. My enemies inquire the cause; I will not tell them, gentlemen,

but I will tell you. My object, in thus coming forward to solicit the honour of your representation, was not from a desire to have M. P. stuck at the tail of my name, already sufficiently *Long*! those initials I have already. As little is it to procure the favour, or to merit the patronage of ministers; —this I refused when a poor man, and when circumstances almost rendered compliance imperative; but if, when the strong plea of necessity came in aid of temptation, I proved myself superior to it, that man must have more than common share of credulity, that can believe for a single moment that I should ever yield to it now; when, by the smiles of fortune, I am placed where the blandishments of temptation are unfurled in vain. As it is for neither of those reasons that I offer myself for your county, so neither is it to procure me a *title*. I would not give a farthing to be one of their new-fangled Lords. But all this I might have been when a poor man; I was too proud to become a menial—too independent then to bow to the will and pleasure of any man; I am much too proud to do it now. A Lord indeed! if they would by making me a Lord, make me a *man* like the *Duke of Wellington*, (*bravo, bravo*!) then, and not till then, I should think a title worth my acceptance. If it were in the compass of possibility that I could perform services to my country, and become as conspicuously *notorious* as my gallant uncle, I should then have no objection to the honours with which she might be pleased to invest me.

At present, gentlemen, the highest honour that my heart aspires after, is the honour of representing you;—for this, and this alone, I am ambitious! Why am I ambitious of it? Gentlemen, if it be an honour to have a seat in the House of Commons at all, it must still be a greater honour to have a seat for the most honourable place. (*Hear! hear!*) There is scarcely a rotten borough but I might command; but no, knowing myself eligible to represent any part of the United Kingdom!—knowing that it is the *soil*, and not the mere accident of *birth*, that gives the title;—having also resolved to make Wiltshire the place of my constant residence, I determined on the general dissolution of parliament to offer myself for the county. I was ambitious—I am ambitious of representing it;—I trust it is a laudable ambition. (*Hear, hear*!) As the county by the resignation of Mr. Long, offered an earlier opportunity for application than the dissolution, my own intentions being seconded by the entreaties of Mrs. Wellesley, to whom it was but very natural to seek for the restoration of an honour to her house, which it so long enjoyed, and so honourably exercised. I assure you that her heart is in this cause. I repeat it, it is but natural it

should be so; she cannot help desiring to see an honour founded in affection and free choice, restored to a family, whose ancestry had been ever dear to the county of Wilts, and to whom that county was equally endeared. Such, gentlemen, were my views, and such her desires; and being, as you all know, a very bad husband (*laughing*), yet taking a particular pleasure in every thing that can gratify her wishes, I am determined to spare neither labour nor expense to accomplish the object of our mutual ambition: such, gentlemen, were my motives for coming down amongst you; I hope they are strictly honourable. (*Hear, hear.*) Such as no man need be ashamed of. (*Hear, hear.*) But aware that probably the heads of the great families might appear as a candidate, I wrote to Mr. Estcourt and Mr. Penruddocke on the subject; offering instantly to decline if they felt disposed to come forward, and promised I would give them my interest. On their refusal I continued my canvass, and am proud to say it has been a successful one; and though given to understand that the ancient and great families of the county were opposed to me, Mrs. Penruddocke volunteered to canvass for me; and you now see in the chair a relative of the immediate descendant and representative of Mr. Goddard, *your* once revered and beloved member. I need not inform you, gentlemen, this has not been the treatment which I have *invariably* received. You know in what way I have been maligned. You have read, no doubt, as well as heard of the conduct of my opponents. For noticing this, I have been accused of contemning the magistracy; but this, like all the other charges, has not even the shadow of a shade to support it. There is no man in the world holds the magistracy of this county in higher respect than I do; no man venerates them more! But this respect is confined to them when acting in their *proper sphere;* when they step beyond that, and the magistrate emerges into the partisan, you will agree with me that all respect should terminate with it. I have been accused (and what have I not been accused of?) of being a bad and oppressive landlord. My tenants know the contrary, and have come forward spontaneously to deny the charge. They could do no other; I love my tenants, from the richest to the poorest: they know it; they live in my affections; and I live in theirs. It has been said that they were compelled to do what they did, to testify their respect for me; but than this nothing can be more false. My tenants compelled indeed! They are freemen, and not slaves; many of them rich landlords; most of them rich enough to be so; and all of them as independent in mind as their landlord! (*Bravo, bravo.*) And you must not think me un-

grateful in not thanking them for what they have done; nay, at no period of my life have I been less cautious in my conduct towards them; they did their duty to me; I have always endeavoured to do mine by them. But, lest it should be supposed that I wished to influence the freeholders of Wilts by a long list of grateful tenantry, I wrote to my other tenants and forbade—positively forbade such testimonial on my behalf. I trust you, gentlemen, are too independent: I *know* you are too independent in mind, to be led away by the reproaches cast upon a man; and I trust you will never be biassed by any thing expressed in his praise. My first advice to you is my last, "judge for yourselves." (*Bravo, bravo.*) You will think by this time that I have trespassed too long upon your time. (*No, no.*) I shall just make one observation more. Much has been said about the agricultural and manufacturing interests, and the necessity having a man possessed of local knowledge to represent the county. "Local interest" too have been made use of. For my part, gentlemen, I should always be averse to making any distinction between Agriculture and Trade. I see no reason for dividing what nature and necessity have so happily united. They are so mutually dependent that the one cannot prosper without the other, nor decline without experiencing a reverse. If the agricultural interest is to be a commanding one in Wilts, you may expect to hear of nothing but duties on Spanish wool: what then becomes of the manufacturing interest? While my worthy friends of North Wilts, would have as good reason to exclaim, "Od rabbit it, let us have a tax on Dutch cheese." The mind of a representative for this large county should be free from (excuse the phrase) all *local* partialities; he should embrace the interests of the whole without exception, otherwise the county would be like that city when in a state of siege, where every man proposed as necessary for its defence what particularly belonged to his own trade. A man of *local* interests can be but the representative of half his constituents. *Local knowledge*, gentlemen, is simply a knowledge of place; and *local interest*, nothing but getting the best price for what grows upon it. (*laughing.*)

Now, gentlemen, I have thus endeavoured to explain to you my motives for appearing among you; I have endeavoured to vindicate myself from the charges alleged against me, the way in which I have conducted myself, the way in which I mean to act. What I am now going to say looks like *dictating*, and if you please, gentlemen, let it be so. If you believe me capable of acting as my enemies have represented; if you believe me to be the bad husband, the oppressive land-

lord, the ministerial tool, that they have represented me to be, reject me at once, and in a way that will bar the hope of return. But if you believe on the contrary, that I am not such a monster; if you approve of my motives in coming forward, and of the principles by which I shall be guided, then, gentlemen, I am happy at having an opportunity while returning you thanks for drinking my health, of at the same time soliciting your interest now, and your vote at the ensuing election.

During the delivery of this speech, Mr. Wellesley was warmly cheered by the company, who entered into his views, and participated in his feelings. After which, a song written expressly for the occasion, was sung by Mr. Foster, and which, from the very exquisite style in which it was performed, received a double encore. The chairman gave "The County of Wilts,"—drank with three times three. After which, John Seagrim, jun. Esq. of Wilton, in a most eloquent and impressive speech, forcibly recommended to the meeting the necessity of a hearty co-operation in the cause in which they had engaged, and concluded with that good old electioneering toast, "A long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," which was drank with loud plaudits. Bishop's beautiful ode, "Fill boys and drink about," was sung by the gentlemen with fine effect. A number of appropriate toasts were given; and the singing was delightful. Amongst the songs peculiarly attractive, were those of Mr. Lacy, who sang "Who deeply drinks of wine," with the greatest taste and judgment; and "The battle of Salamanca," by Mr. Foster, who gave it with his more than accustomed excellence. Harmony and hilarity detained the company until the sun, which saw them at his setting, beheld them pleased and jovial,—when rising he was scattering around him in rich profusion the rays of the morning. The company did not separate till nine the next morning, nor then entirely.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

A REPORT having been published of what fell from me at a dinner given by my friends at Marlborough, I think it necessary to correct an error in that report. I *never* said I had written "to Mr. Estcourt." I *did* say I had written to Mr. Penruddocke, offering to decline after I had commenced my canvass, and to give him my interest should he think proper to become a candidate for the honour of representing the county of Wilts. I also stated reasons why I should have waved my pretensions in favour of such men as himself,

Mr. Estcourt, Mr. Goddard, and others. It is from a scrupulous desire of not appearing incorrect in my statements to the public that I trouble you with these remarks.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient humble servant,

WM. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Draycot-House, May* 15, 1818.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

I LAMENT that in your last Journal you failed of detailing the effusions of brilliant eloquence, and the generous hospitality, by which one of our Candidates has deemed it expedient to distinguish himself at the present crisis of his fortune.

You gave but a meagre account of the grand entertainment at Marlborough, to which the freeholders in his interest, and many who are not freeholders, were admitted at five shillings per head; where every thing was *decorated with laurel*, and where the mirrors exhibited inscriptions *judiciously selected and highly appropriate;* where the venison both *for size and flavour* excelled all that had before been seen or tasted; where the wines were of *the best quality*, and *the supply most ample;* where, to make the treat complete, there were singers from London and Bath and Salisbury; and where the speeches, and the toasts, and the sentiments, and the songs, were made for the occasion, and were highly correct and tasteful. All this has really happened at Marlborough. Whatever may be the current of future events, it will form an epoch in our county history. It will either be a lesson or the matter of emulation to future Candidates, and yet you have hitherto but briefly noticed it in your widely-circulated Journal.

The gentleman whose exalted name afforded a character to the day, was observed in a new light by every anxious spectator. In his canvass he had generally appeared like one of our ancient Plantagenets, who was aspiring to the throne by a sort of elective title;

"Standing 'tween two Clergymen,
"Two props of virtue for a Christian Prince,
"To stay him from the fall of vanity."

But now all was song and merriment and joviality. The feast was prolonged far beyond the ordinary hour of separation, till in the glowing description of the historian, who saw what he records, *the sun was scattering around him in rich profusion the rays of the morning.* This to the guests at five shillings per head must have been ecstatic joy; for

"Light is the dance, and doubly sweet the lays,
"When for the dear delight another pays."

It is new in the Chronicles of Wiltshire that a gentleman aspiring to the honour of representing us should deem it necessary to afford an entertainment almost gratuitously to any assemblage of persons, or that on such an occasion he should make a display of his power of elocution to set forth his high pretensions, to emblazon his unquestioned merits, or to recapitulate imaginary calumnies for the purpose of confuting them.

I rejoice that the names of many freeholders will not go down to posterity with the account of that rare festivity. I heartily rejoice that no descendant of our old champion, Mr. Goddard, nor any one inheriting the spirit of his glorious triumph can be *truly* mentioned as present on that occasion. Any public orator must have learnt but little of the pedigrees of our county families, and indeed have been a stranger to our county, if he asserted that "the gentleman in the chair "was the immediate descendant and representative of Mr. "Goddard, our once revered and beloved member." I am confident that no true descendants of Mr. Goddard, and not many of that class which is justly jealous of the independence of the county, would accept such entertainment from a candidate soliciting their support. They would not patiently have heard him boast of the vast and over-bearing weight of his influence and fortune, that *even when a poor man* he might have enjoyed the honour of a peerage which he seems to despise, and that now *there is scarcely a rotten borough which he might not command. That having resolved to make Wiltshire the place of his constant residence, he had therefore determined at the dissolution of Parliament to offer himself for the county: that he was ambitious of representing it; and that as the resignation of one of the sitting members had offered an earlier opportunity for application than the dissolution*, he therefore seized it, seeking *to restore that honour to the house* of his lady.

The freeholders of Wiltshire will well consider these pretensions hardily advanced and now deliberately recorded. They will consider how far they should prevail against the solicitations of a gentleman whose family is perhaps as ancient in the county, and his property certainly as adequate to the station which he aspires to, as any member for the county could boast of in the recollection of the oldest among us. But they will remember that he deduces no advantage to his cause from wealth, from descent, or from connection: None from the intimate acquaintance with our local interests which he has acquired during a life spent in our service in various public capacities, and in those pursuits which are best suited to the rank and natural habits of a resident proprietor. He makes a liberal appeal to the independent sense of his native

county, and professes a determination to serve us honestly and zealously, should we prefer him to represent us in the Legislature.—Such pretensions he does not prop by testimonials of character from his own tenantry, or by circulating any slanderous invectives against his opponents published in the name of a disappointed tenant. His merits, though not made a subject of declamation at the markets of Wilton or Devizes, or at the tavern at Marlborough, are respectfully submitted to our calm judgment. It is not likely that we shall err respecting them. I remain, Gentlemen, your constant reader,

*Swindon, May* 15, 1818. THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

WITHOUT insinuating from what knowledge or communication Mr. Wellesley may derive his idea of a magistrate, there appears proof enough, among his unknown supporters, of ignorance upon the subject (and, if not ignorance, a *ruse de guerre* playing upon ignorance), to justify the following plain statement:—

The lord-lieutenant of the county, acting for the King, nominates, at his will and pleasure, the justices of the peace: these magistrates, without fee or reward, or any emolument, administer the laws, and, except the satisfaction of doing good (a feeling, it is conceived, not obsolete), the honour of the office is the only inducement to accept it. The magistrates *must* be chosen from the landholders, and any number of them acting together for the service of the neighbourhood, is commonly called a quorum. These gentlemen, generally speaking, are the chief men in the county, in land, in commerce, and in the professions; as such, they must, of course, not as magistrates, but as resident owners of property, be the leading men in all county business.

Now, it is asserted, without fear of contradiction, that there is no county in the kingdom, where they are more impartially appointed, and where they act more independently, than in this county; so that, as magistrates, there is no combination among them *for* any personal gratification, or *against* any part of the community; and that they do not form a body *confined* by favouritism, or interest, or party, there is the testimony of one of the most virulent of its calumniators *elegantly* describing them as *so numerous*, that "you can't spit out of your window without trespassing on their hats."

What, then, is meant by "that notorious quorum, who do

not abandon either magisterial pomp or authority during their canvass," and "a magistrate presenting and circulating a document illustrated with notes," &c. &c. &c. the anonymous friends of Mr. Wellesley playing the changes upon the sarcasm given out to them? For, what quorum has influenced its clerk or constable, or any one of or belonging to it, to vote against Mr. W.—or threatened or promised a publican about his licence,—or issued forth to canvass with magisterial pomp or authority? What magistrate officially has used threats or temptations for or against a single vote? If nothing of the kind can be proved, will party spleen account for the defamation; or to the temptations of party must personal envy, malice, and revenge be added?

There can be no doubt but that some gentlemen, who are magistrates, have talked and acted most openly against Mr. W. (as others have against Mr. M. and Mr. B.); and considering the unfavourable light in which Mr. W.'s character had been viewed, all through prejudice and ignorance his anonymous writers inform us, from his addresses to Miss L. to this our first *real* knowledge of him, (if it may be said *only* knowledge, *for virtues and vices are all anonymous*, except Thomson and Hobhouse concerning one public transaction, and his present tenants praising their landlord), it is the more easily to be accounted for on Mr. W.'s part: but is the *magistracy* to be arraigned for such errors and ignorance? It would have been unjust to have vilified a body for the act of one of its own members, but it is worse to vilify that body for acts done by an individual in another capacity.

This letter is written in the right of a freeholder; yet, perhaps, some liberal declaimer is already prepared to stigmatise *one of the parsons* for having written it; indeed we have seen such allusions by Mr. Titus and others.

Who is the Native, or the True Friend of Independence, or Candidus, or Peter Pangloss, or My Old Heart, or the Anti-Quorum, or the New Moon-Raker, or the Lunatic, or Mr. Titus himself, perhaps Mr. Timothy should be added, if these *par nobile fratrum* are not one and the same, according to the conjecture of the Bath gentry, who, as spectators, often see the most of the game, and thus think that the elder Trueman gave his brother a bit of ground to fight upon? But, speaking of these partisans by their feigned names, are their supposed trades or professions to be traduced, to be confounded with the efforts of a party, and made answerable, because these individuals choose to take one side of the question? What means this satire? It is (notorious enough) that revolutionizing slang which aims to degrade whatever is respectable, upon the true levelling system, because that respectability is at

least wanting to the defamer. The obnoxious person, to be prince, noble, magistrate, parson, lawyer, doctor, or tradesman, finds *his cast* is to suffer for an alleged offence, which, if it were true, would entitle that cast, from every liberal mind, to the greater commiseration for having so unworthy a member.

We have been told, that with some—Satan is an Angel of Light; there are others who would rather impeach the angels for his apostacy; now, so far from considering it a reflection on Mr. W. that he is of an honourable *Irish* family, and has very noble *Irish* prospects in rank and fortune, it appears a laudable pride to acknowledge and not contemn these distinctions; though it may not be an argument in favour of his representing this county.

Let Mr. W. enjoy his princely income—let him choose to represent Wiltshire instead of Hampshire, or Dorsetshire, or Essex, (though among the hundreds of friendly voices vouching for his good name, there appears, as yet, not one from Essex, his residence, the place where every man is best known); but let not his partisans deprecate the humblest fortunes of a Wiltshire magistrate, perhaps after all more free and independent than his own; for they should remember that all Mr. W.'s wealth is but an income, a life-interest, not an acre can he sell, not a tree can he cut down but according to his marriage bond.

Thus the truth of many of the sneers and remarks about the magistracy of the county is impossible, of others improbable, of the whole denied, and of not one substantiated.

*May* 11, 1818. C. L.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM a plain man, and seldom meddle with politics, except when called upon to give my vote for a member for the county, which I always endeavour to do honestly, according to my notion of the merits of the candidates, from the best information I can get. On this account, I read, and hear, and look about me, that I may be able to judge and determine—and if I cannot get exactly such a Parliament-man as I wish for, I am content to have one as near the mark as I can.

On the present occasion it is rather amusing to observe the measures adopted by one of the parties to gull that class of freeholders who may be properly termed independent—that is, those who, like myself, give their votes as they please.

Brother freeholders—Here's a select company of gentlemen, armed with the powers of magistracy, whose wish is too "no-

torious" to be either denied or concealed. They want to reduce the county of Wilts to the state of a Cornish borough, while *they* would act the part of the self-elected corporation; manage all the business of elections among themselves, and free us from all trouble and care about parliamentary affairs—thus thrusting the whole county into the shade, that they, and their sons, and their cousins, may snugly and securely bask in the sun-shine of ministerial patronage and court favour.

Gentlemen, these are the men who are clamorous for independence! Our ears are stunned with their shouts of, "Independence! Independence for ever!" I have heard my eldest boy read somewhere of factions, who

"——— agree
To call it freedom, when *themselves* are free."

This "notorious Quorum," being fond of monopolies, would have us believe, that the whole stock of independence is in their hands! But how did they come by it? Does it *all* grow in their paddocks? Have they bought it *all* up? Certainly it never was sold in our markets, though a small portion of it may be *some how disposed of* at a "Licensing-day;" and I rather suspect this little modicum is nearly all the stock they possess.

Of Mr. Long Wellesley I know little—and, in all likelihood, some of his political notions would by no means square with my wishes: but this is a trifle when placed against the perilous situation to which the manœuvres of the "Quorum" are carrying us.

Gentlemen,—whatever be the politics of Mr. Long Wellesley, it is on our behalf he enters the lists with these doughty combatants. He has, at least, virtue and courage, and independence enough to be our deliverer from the chains now forging for us; and, if true to ourselves on this occasion, we may hope to live to vote again, or, at least, to hand down our birth-right to our children. But if we be diverted, or allured, or frightened, or gulled out of our votes this time, it may be as well that they be locked up in the strong box of the "Quorum," for any use we can ever make of them hereafter.

The question in effect is not which of the Candidates shall we elect? But, as things now stand, it is come to this point, shall we vote this once, and no more for ever,—or, shall we vote for a man whose success will ensure our voting again? Should the "Quorum" succeed this time, our names may appear on the freeholders' list as heretofore, but, instead of the cry of independence, we shall hear only of the rattling of our chains (no very pleasant music to a Wiltshire freeholder) at every future election.

As the *new County Jail* will soon be finished, a memento of

the demise of Wiltshire liberty may be inscribed on the front of the portico, in a style similar to that on a building in one of our venal boroughs, and posterity will read with astonishment, "*Erected in the year* 1818, *by the Quorum Patrons of this County.*"

Gentlemen,—such being the state of things, excuse a plain man's language. If you love liberty, and wish your children to have an independent vote, speak now in favour of Mr. Long Wellesley, the conservator of your rights, or for ever after hold your peace, and bite your chains in silence.

*Trowbridge, May* 10, 1818. A CLOTHIER.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

WELL! how is your old heart now? You seem to have recovered a little—have grown facetious—poetical too—by-and-bye we shall see you in love. You probably took my advice, and wrapt yourself in flannel! But how comes it, Old Square Toes, that you, after your four-score years' experience,—after all that stock of knowledge which you have acquired, and the caution it ought to have communicated, that *you*, of all men, should have been caught *napping?*—Did the report of a good dinner operate so powerfully upon your nerves;—was your imagination wrought up to such a pitch of frenzy by the sound? or was you horror struck at the idea of people paying five shillings for what you in general contrive *to sneak into for nothing*, that your senses for a moment forsook you, and, like Noah, when overcharged, have left exposed what was for ever intended to be kept secret? Every man has been wondering who the Old Moon-Raker could be: Do you know, says one? I can guess, says another; it is Mr. Goddard of Swindon. No, says a third, 'tis an old gentleman who lives near him. Impossible, cries his friend, they are sensible men—besides, *they* are *gentlemen:* Some have said that it's Rose of Salisbury, that everlasting scribbler; some that it's Mr. Tinney; others, that it's Mr. Tinney's man. Others, again, have been led to believe, that it is foolish Harry; while one chucklehead more brainless than the rest, declares, that he knows for a down-right certainty that the Old Moon-Raker is *the senior Mr. Salmon* of Devizes! As if that gentleman could be the author of such trash; or would be base enough to practise an imposition on the freeholders of the county, whatever might be the object. For Mr. Moon-Raker, you certainly have been guilty of a very gross imposition upon the unsuspecting, open-hearted freeholders of Wilts. Aware that their partialities might still lean to where their old member resided, and where his

descendants still reside, you have dated your letters from the place; and rightly conjecturing, that whatever appeared as coming from there would, by the unsuspecting freeholder, be presumed to have come from them, you have availed yourself of this disposition, to produce impressions unfavourable to one candidate, and to secure, if possible, their affections in favour of another? although the very candidate against whom you would have it believed that the descendants of Mr. Goddard are hostile to, is doing now what Mr. Goddard set him the example of:—he is giving the county an *election*. Are these your moon-raking propensities? For these forty-six years that your old heart's been so warm, the freeholders of Wilts have lost their rights; this large and populous county has been converted into a bacchanalian borough; the liberties and independence of Wilts were sentenced by the bench, or drowned in the bottle. But the freeholders have recovered their feet again; they find that they are men—that they are freemen, and they'll be no longer slaves. For this change they are indebted to Mr. Wellesley;—he has broke up the fallow ground;—freedom will spring up—with freedom, talent—with talent, energy;—and this great and intelligent county will stand in name as it is in nature—the first of English provinces! and the men of Wilts the pride of Englishmen! and whether your *old heart* be warm or cold.

What consummate cant!—dated, too, from Swindon; while it was impossible that Simpson's Gazette could have arrived there, and an answer be sent to Salisbury in time for the Journal! So it turns out that your old heart beats a little nearer Salisbury than Swindon! And pray what is the reason that Salisbury should not be as respectable in your eyes as Swindon? There are lions in the Tower; or you have spent many happy hours there, and in many different ways too; and very often, indeed, have been noticed

> "Standing between two clergymen,
> "Two props of virtue for a "*limb of law*,
> "To" raise him to the full "of vanity!!!"

Your old heart is surely growing estranged from former attachments, when you hold Mr. Wellesley up to scorn for having been seen between two of that respectable order; but for whom, the Moon-Raker would never have acquired a cheese; at whose tables he has been fed; and whose favour has made him respectable.

Comparisons are hateful: but I appeal to yourself, which of the triads are the most respectable—the first, composed of a member of the royal house of Plantagenet and two reverend divines—or, the second made up of two attornies, John Doe and Richard Roe, conducting a skeleton in procession, and feeding on its marrow.

But you are going to have a feast at Marlborough! I would not go if I were you; it looks so much like what Mr. Wellesley has done: although it certainly cannot now be "new in the chronicles of Wiltshire!" You'll have some songs, I suppose; and I dare say you'll be pretty jovial! The subscription has come in pretty handsome; I hear, with what you have got, an eighteen-penny whip will clear the decks. You'll have a *poet* there, but the sciences have dissolved partnership in his case; he has no music in him. I would go myself, but I expect my tom cat will kitten a magpie on that day, so you must excuse me. Don't eat too much, nor prolong the feast "beyond the ordinary hour of separation." Don't forget Mr. Benett's speech; you will find it in the crown of his hat! Be sure to learn your own well, and hand it over, before you go, to the Journal. Leave a list of all the respectable names you mean to be there, and they can be setting them up while you are eating: but be sure that none of the parties are dead, or on the Continent, or you'll be blown. There is nothing in the world to keep you from being very happy. Agents go free; so if you are one it will cost you nothing—not so much as five shillings per head! You like a cheap bit; I have heard sometimes a *dirty* bit; here every thing will be in apple-pye order; and the best of all—it costs nothing:—

"Light is the dance, and doubly sweet the lays,
"When for the dear delight another pays."

I have but one word more to say to you, and that is—"Don't lose your breeches."

MY OLD HEART.

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*To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

MR. EDITOR,

BEING from necessity, which knows no law, a constant resident in this county, I have often wished (to my shame be it spoken) for a contested election to enliven the solitude of an old bachelor, and the columns of your paper, often uninteresting to me who have little concern or connection here, more than in common with other parts of my native land, for which, I am proud to say, I have fought and bled: and, as Mr. Wellesley claims a right to stand for this county as the *nephew* of a *great* hero, I may, perhaps, be permitted, without offence, to occupy a small portion of your columns, as being myself a *little* one. At any rate, my reason is as good as his. Mr. Methuen, from his silence and inactivity, it is to be hoped, is quite secure; *he* affords me no amusement: but where is Mr. Benett, or, as Messrs. Hunt and Fisher call him, Mr. *John* Benett? as if in a Christian coun-

try it were a blemish to have a *Christian* name. I begin to be under some alarm lest he should be secure also; and then farewell to all sparring, and to the increasing interest of Simpson's Gazette and the Salisbury Journal. Again I ask, what can Mr. John Benett be about this week? No new address, nor answer, nor statement, whilst Mr. Wellesley's name continues as usual, to enliven column after column! Are we to infer, as is generally the case, that the strongest party is the most silent; or is it merely a *cessation* of hostilities? and has Mr. B. no *time* to write answers and addresses, whilst he is pursuing his spirited canvass upon his broken-down hunters? When *their*, and his, fatigues are over, we may look forward to an overwhelming tide of answers to all his enemies, both anonymous and otherwise, even to the man who quarrels with him, amongst other things, for giving him a new coat, and makes him talk *Leicestershire* slang in mistake for Wiltshire. I would rather read over an old log book from the Channel to China, than examine their accounts; but from this one proof of falsehood I chance to be up to, I can make a pretty shrewd guess at the rest. God forbid any misfortune should befal Mr. Benett before "the friends of independence" give their dinner at Marlborough; as a speech, at the least twice as long as Mr. W.'s, we all know may be expected from *him*, in which it is to be hoped, for the amusement of your readers, he will follow that gentleman's example, by setting forth his own qualifications and pretensions to the best advantage; how much riding, and driving, and chacing, and pacing, he has undergone; to attend agricultural meetings, sessions, and assizes; his prize cups at Devizes; his patent ploughs, Scotch carts; his letters to Coxe, flax dressing, and his Wiltshire lady. Of course we shall be told how *her* father brought up five hundred votes, and turned the fortune of the day in favour of the Old Moon-Raker's hero of 1772, causing his opponent to strike his flag; and who may also be remembered in some of the clothing districts as "the pilot who weathered the storm" at the critical period of the French revolution. What a saving in elections, if Mr. W. sets the fashion of every man being his own trumpeter!—Mr. Editor, I have only a left-hand to write with, which has long been tired, as you must be, with decyphering my bad writing; therefore I will hasten to sum up my advice to your readers in as few words as possible. It is to be hoped, for Mr. Wellesley's own sake, that *all* which can be said of him is, that he is a fortunate dandy. Mr. Methuen I believe to be amiable in his private character—in his public one he has certainly exposed himself a *little*. Since he has represented this county, he has done neither good nor harm. Mr. Be-

nett we may at least expect will do *something*; he has the character of being active and decisive; and even Titus Trueman, in the height of his abuse, still allows him to be a man of talents. By all means return him as *one* of your members.

Ye men of Wiltshire, have ye not been represented by old women long enough?

*Zeals, May* 17, 1818. A BUSY BODY.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

### IN THE COUNTY COURT.

Fisher *v.* Benett.

"And the dirt came out."—*Judges*, ch. iii. v. 22.

GENTLEMEN,

SINCE I did myself the honour to address you on this subject, some events have taken place "new in the chronicles of Wiltshire," but intimately connected with the subject of this inquiry, and on which I feel it my duty to offer you a few observations. They are not precisely free from it—*dirt* belongs to one of them—*dirt* has been thrown at the other. It will be truly gratifying to you, however, to observe, that since the period I refer to, a considerable portion of dirt has disappeared. The requisition to Mr. Wellesley, demanding explanation of a common, and what, from real ignorance of its meaning, was construed into an offensive phrase, has vanished from the columns of the papers. It was the offspring of pique or passion, and its existence has terminated in shame! That requisition, gentlemen, you thought as I did at first, was the spontaneous act of the magistrates whose names were affixed to it; nothing, however, could have been more erroneous. There was a vast deal of manœuvring to get at them, and the regular system of canvassing was resorted to, on purpose to procure the number you saw, certainly not a very *numerous* one, considering the great assortment of magistrates we have for the administration of justice in this extensive county. With all their efforts, they could only procure sixteen; and four of these, ashamed that they had put their names to a paper which proclaimed their ignorance and folly, ordered them to be withdrawn. I hail this evidence of returning wisdom to the bench! and, as one good thing seldom comes alone, the remaining twelve have followed their example, and now the columns of your county papers no more exhibit the names of sixteen, nor even twelve names so eminently distinguished for philological and magisterial acquirements. In justice to the twelve *judges* who remained after the secession of the

others, it must be observed, that they certainly went off with flying colours. They gave the "D——e, who's afraid?" They defied Mr. Wellesley to substantiate that to which he had never become pledged, and then most unceremoniously withdrew, not desiring nor waiting a reply! *This* portion of dirt, gentlemen, is removed.

An event, at which some dirt has been thrown, was a dinner of the friends of Mr. Wellesley, at the Castle Inn, Marlborough. As many of you were there, and witnessed the harmony that prevailed, and the unfeigned respect and attachment that was shewn to our highly respected Candidate, Mr. Wellesley; as you heard his manly avowal of principles dear to you, long lost, but about to be restored; his devotion to your cause, and his zeal for its prosperity, you will be enabled to bestow a smile of contempt, for the sneer which has been thrown at you and your dinner at Marlborough, as if it was beneath the dignity of Wiltshire freeholders to sit down to an entertainment, unless the expense equalled or exceeded their means; and they, consequently, deprived of an opportunity of expressing their attachment to the rights and independence of their county, because Providence had, in a less bountiful way, distributed his favours amongst them. This, gentlemen, is all they can say about you and your late dinner. Nothing is more common than for candidates and their friends to dine together; it is never alleged against such entertainments, that they are *almost* gratuitous; for, in general, they are known to be altogether so; look, for instance, at Longford Castle, where the scarlet and blue robes of Sarum hie for a "*bit of that there;*" or, at the College, when *pigeon* shooting is in season! Mr. Wellesley's dinner was intended as a mark of friendly attachment to him; as a mean of promoting friendly intercourse amongst the freeholders themselves. Had it been done with the insidious intention of *winging* the friends of Mr. Jervoise or any other candidate, then the harpies might shew their teeth and welcome; but they can't bear that the people should have too much for money; especially when *they* are not permitted to be partakers. They affect surprise and even horror at gentlemen, farmers, tradesmen and others, dining together for *five shillings*, while they have been ready to hang themselves for having been refused admission to a three and sixpenny gorge! But, gentlemen, you have a dinner of another kind, which I fear will elicit a little dirty work. It was advertised to be at the Duke's Arms, Marlborough, for the friends of independence,—that is, for the friends of Mr. Benett; for by a strange perversion of language and common sense as well as fact, Benett and Independence have become synonymous. This is especially strange since the publication of Mr. Fisher's account, But they think

you can swallow any thing; they imagine you are to be gulled; and they intend that you shall answer the end of your creation. It may amuse you and I, gentlemen, to look a little at the company assembled on this important occasion; at what they did, and what they said.

In the report which I find in the Salisbury Journal, you will see that this said meeting took place on Friday last, at the Duke's Arms, Marlborough. The company, you are told, were all friends of independence; that is of such independence as the county has enjoyed for these forty-six years past, and for which the Moon-Raker offers up his daily orisons in mock devotion. The company, you are told, were very numerous, but yet they were all accommodated in *one* room, and none of the rooms in the Duke's Arms Inn will hold a regiment! That they were very respectable there can be no doubt; the freeholders of Wilts were always a respectable body of men, and wherever they are assembled they are entitled to respect. But notwithstanding all this, gentlemen, there were some little drawbacks upon the business of that day, which may not be unamusing to you and to myself. They have discharged an arrow or two at Mr. Wellesley's dinner party; is there any crime in returning them?—Are they only to be active—we merely passive in the contest? Are they to have all the fun, you and I never to have a smile? come, come, turn about's fair play; let's draw aside the curtain, and discover all the *beauties* that the *Duke* enfolded in his *arms*.

You are informed that Fulwar Craven, Esq. was in the chair. This is a very respectable gentleman of Wilts, and so far famed for his reforming zeal that Mr. Hallett of Berkshire, and some other place, called upon him to come forward, like another Sampson, and save us from the Philistines. Friend Fulwar, whose zeal was of that sort which has more prudence than fire in it, just knows when to burn, when to go out, disobeyed the patriotic call, gave up the delight in prospect of annual parliaments and universal suffrage, and roundly affirmed, that constituted as the House of Commons was at present, he could not suffer his immaculate person to enter it! This you know, gentlemen, appeared in the public papers, and now only think, what sort of man this Mr. Craven must be. He tells you that the House of Commons is a place so vile, so corrupt, so contaminated, so contaminating, that he would not for the soul of him go there; but he thinks it's good enough for Mr. Benett. Did you ever hear any thing so malicious? To send poor Mr. Benett where he would not take his own boots! This is a compliment to Mr. Benett with a vengeance. It is cruel work, but I never will allow that it originates in badness of heart; Fulwar is a very good sort of man, but I think he is a weak

brother; we have all our infirmities, and certainly Mr. Craven never shewed the extent of his so much as when presiding at the dinner of a Candidate, who very properly is as averse to Fulwar's reforming plans, as Fulwar himself was to going away without a good belly-full. Mr. Craven's speech was to the old tune of independence, and when delivered in that company, meant nothing else than the right of the magistrates and clubs to return the county members! Liberty abroad, but tyranny at home,—these are the two fundamental articles of every reformer's creed. There is one thing which is mentioned that I hope is erroneous. We are told that Mr. Craven was obliged to be *supported!* What! "*How come you so, so soon?*"—Perhaps he had the gout, or the gravel, or,—well, never mind what it was, I am sorry that he needed support, especially as there was nobody near him but Mr. Benett and Paul Methuen; the former standing more in need of Fulwar's support at the present moment than Fulwar can possibly do of his; and as for Paul! Fulwar, Fulwar, if you are wise don't lean *there;* O! but he has been a *steady* support wherever he turned his side to. Always sure to find him at his post; if you only knew where to find the post.—Gentlemen, his post, if he ever means to be consistent, certainly was not at the Duke's Arms, not at a dinner given with a view to further the return of a ministerial member. Mr. Methuen's place was away from that table; he has been constantly for these few weeks (just as I told you) opposing the ministers on all questions; and now that he comes down here he turns tail again, and gives his support to a gentleman whom he knows were he now to go up with him to St. Stephen's chapel would on all questions of prerogative, or where the crown was concerned, vote against him; unless to be sure Mr. Paul changed *once* more. Mr. Methuen has hurt himself by going to that dinner; and Mr. Benett has done himself no good by having him there. The plans that were laid when they were at the house of their common friend, although denied by Mr. Methuen, are now beginning to operate; and the dinner opens the ball. You will find that a coalition will be attempted, and a mutual transfer will be made of interests. This is my opinion; I shall be agreeably disappointed if it is not so.

Amongst the toasts, you are told that "The Independence of the county of Wilts" was drank with enthusiasm. Such an independence as I have described, and which is the funeral of its *real* independence!

The hurraing was relieved a little by the charms of oratory. Mr. Atherton, who resides at Calne, and is a patriot of the true Ramsbury breed, made an eloquent address. It had all the fascinations of music! and it is most greatly to be lamented

that cloudy *malt* (for we have heard nothing as yet about *wine*) having predisposed the greater part of the select few to sleep, it only contributed to give the drowsy god that ascendancy to which he had been aspiring more speedily, and to render their repose more tranquil. In an instant (to use the phrase of the Journal) "the utmost harmony prevailed!" That is, there was a most dreadful *row*! You must know, gentlemen, that the Ramsbury independents belong to old Major Cartwright's school; and therefore never attend public meetings without a waggon load of *Resolutions* in store. Mr. Atherton happen to touch the string of resolutions, up got a *Gaby* and rejected to the rehearsal. This awaked some additional "harmony," probably the effect of "enthusiasm," amongst the "zealous friends of independence!" Mr. Atherton is a warm friend to independence; he was (I believe) at Mr. Wellesley's dinner on account of it; he was at Mr. Benett's on the same account.—"He sows besides all waters," but does not seem very particular about the seed! Mr. Atherton having (whom by the bye I am proud to call my friend) finished his address (which was no doubt received with "enthusiasm" at the *close*) and having tied up his resolutions and carefully pocketed them, the health of Mr. Methuen, our *worthy representative*, was drank; (I suppose, but it does not say) with "enthusiasm" also. Upon this he got up and made a speech, just such a one as I have heard him make when the mayors of Salisbury do me the honour to invite me to the civic feast. It was about the same length, or rather longer, than those he has been accustomed to make of late in the House of Commons; but he had dined, and *after dinner*, you know, makes all the difference. I have been puzzling my poor nob for this five minutes to account for the appearance of Mr. Methuen at this dinner. You know, gentlemen, it was a political dinner; and if he went to it to *support* Mr. Fulwar Craven, he cannot but know that that gentleman's principles are in direct opposition to the known and political principles of the whole county of Wilts! I say the *whole* county, for I do nor reckon Mr. Craven's gardener or those in his employ, and who may have the benefit of his lectures, to be any thing when compared with you.—Now, if Mr. Methuen went from such a motive, he certainly paid you a very bad compliment, in appearing at a public dinner, and avowing him the supporter of Mr. Fulwar Craven, in the public capacity of a chairman, at any political meeting, whatever. Mr. Craven is a very respectable country gentleman, and I have witnessed his zeal and activity as a magistrate; but his political principles and mine—his political principles and your's do not agree; and Mr. Methuen has certainly

selected a very injudicious way of recommending himself to you on the resumption of his canvass, now that his "*paramount*" duties are performed, and the "*private*" and "*public*" business of the nation will permit the toleration of his absence from the seat of legislation, with a moderate degree of security to the state!!

But, gentlemen, I must suppose another case; that Mr. Methuen did not go to this said dinner for the purpose of sanctioning in his public capacity the chairman, Mr. Craven, but to shew, on the contrary, his respect for the principles and pretensions of Mr. Benett. This is the more excusable of the two; but how does it accord with the conduct that Mr. Methuen has been pursuing in Parliament for these two or three months past? You need not be told, gentlemen, that his conduct has been in direct opposition to the avowed principles of Mr. Benett; and with regard to his *pretensions*, you yourselves cannot but recollect that Mr. Methuen by public advertisement declared, when that *hoax* took place, about furnishing post chaises, waggons, horses, asses, &c. to take the freeholders to the poll, that he stood (take his own words) "*entirely free of any understanding whatever with him (Mr. B.) and that no consideration should induce him to accept assistance on the terms of entering into coalition, or taking any part directly or indirectly with any other gentleman!*" So far, Mr. Methuen; and so far so good! This was certainly a declaration worthy of the member of a great county;—it was worthy of the man who first trod on the chilblains of the Clubs!—But, turning from declarations, let us look a little at *facts*.—You and I had a right to expect that Mr. Methuen would act up to his promise; it was a promise that went a great way towards removing many well founded prejudices, which the versatility of his conduct had raised. He seemed to have come to himself, and determined to stand stiff at last. But how have things turned out? By one kick all the prospects contained in the milk-pail have been overturned; by one fell dash they have been scattered on the ground, and you know, gentlemen, milk is something like water, not easily gathered up again. For after this noble declaration (and it was a noble one) where do you see Mr. Methuen?—Aye, where? "Tell it not in Gath!" Why, gentlemen, you see him at a dinner given for the express purpose of furthering the ends of Mr. Benett's election; you see him occupying a prominent situation there; he was one of the *supporters* of the chairman, and you hear him drinking success to Mr. Benett's cause, to all the means taken to promote it; and you, gentlemen, that are at all acquainted with the nature of electioneering dinners, need

not be told what is meant by seeing two candidates on the right and left of the chair, at a political entertainment. There is, therefore, no dependence to be placed on the declaration of Mr. Methuen. He should, if he valued his word, or your esteem, have undoubtedly been absent from the Duke's Arms. He would have acted with more consistency, with more integrity, though the old building has fallen into decay, he would have laid a new foundation for your esteem. He may think probably that by going there as *to other places*, he might do neither good nor harm; but there he is mistaken; there is no such thing as neutrality here. Besides, *we have his declaration to the contrary*, and that completely establishes the case against him. I hope, gentlemen, when he comes to ask you for your votes at the approaching election, that you will not fail to remind him of Marlborough; and say, Mr. Methuen, what business had you at Mr. Benett's dinner; and when he replies, that he went for the honour of the county independence, you ask him how he thinks the honour of the county independence can be secured by sanctioning the conduct of those very men who have held it in subjection for these forty-six years; and for the continuing of which bondage that dinner was given.—I don't wish you to pull his ears away from his head, but a gentle pinch, I dare say you will think with me, will do no harm, and may probably do him a deal of service. I did intend to have dissected his speech, but it is not worth while: he has too glaringly falsified his declaration to you, and has acted so inconsistently with his presently avowed principles, by his conduct on Friday, that I shall take no farther notice of him at present, except by furnishing the only apology for his conduct that the case affords. Though his principles are directly opposed to Mr. Benett's, yet he probably imagined that by the time Mr. Benett's *aristocracy* had passed through the medium of Mr. Craven's *democracy*, it would be perfectly harmless by the time it had travelled the length of his genuine *whiggism !!*

Mr. Benett's health was next drank with enthusiasm, and he replied to the honour done him in a suitable speech. The consideration of that speech I must defer till next week; it is intimately connected with the title of this letter, a subject I shall bring before you when next I take up my pen. I freely confess to you that there are items in the accounts of Mr. Fisher, as well as of Mr. Benett that I do not understand; and therefore have resolved to make every possible inquiry, before I deliver an opinion to you. It is truth I seek for. I am the partisan of no man; you all know the opinions I have expressed of Mr. Benett; how warmly I advocated

his cause; the letter of Mr. Fisher wrought a different feeling; with this I have made you acquainted; I stand pledged to you to prove that the name of Mr. Fisher had been employed by Mr. Benett or his agents on his canvass; this I have no doubt of accomplishing to your full satisfaction. The degree of criminality, you know, will depend upon the nature of the accounts as they are before you, including the circumstances connected with them. You have no business with the *motives* of Mr. Fisher; they might be bad or they might be good; it is the *fact* you have to try. I have made up my mind upon the subject, but there are some things with which I wish to be better acquainted, before I make that public, and should I find that my judgment is erroneous, I shall be most pleased and happy to express a different opinion to you.

In the concluding report of the dinner, you will find that it is there stated to be very good. I heard but of one complaint, and probably that did not exist: one of the *gentlemen* said that the *taties were fousty*, but his neighbour accounted for it by his having incautiously dropped a little Scots snuff upon them while handing his box to accommodate the nasal "propensities" of one of the "zealous friends of independence!" After having been told that the dinner was *good*, you are told that the "*wine* was paid for;" encouraging a doubt that though the *drinkables* received that favour, the *eatables* did not. But this certainly must be a mistake. Those gentlemen who exclaimed so loudly against giving such a paltry sum as *five shillings* for a dinner, would shudder at the "ecstatic joy" of taking one for *nothing*. We are not told at what hour the *independents* separated; but I have been informed that some of them did not arrive until, "in the glowing" language of one of the persons who no doubt saw what he relates, "the sun was scattering around him in rich profusion the rays of the morning."

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful friend,

TITUS TRUEMAN.

P. S. In answer to the query respecting Mr. Benett's *religion*, it is a subject with which no man has any concern. The question rests entirely between his *Creator* and *himself*.

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## WILTS COUNTY ELECTION.

### *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I had the honour of canvassing the county in March (as far as the time would admit), it was a matter of deep regret

to me that I could not wait on every freeholder, in order to pay them that respect which, as a Candidate for their future representation, as well as from gratitude for their past support, I shall have the highest gratification in paying them.

But I thought my duty in Parliament paramount to every selfish consideration; nor could I reconcile it to my ideas of propriety, to neglect your interests for the purpose of promoting my own, and making so poor a return for all the kindness of my constituents, as endeavouring, at their expense, to ensure my own success in the object of my only ambition.

The *private* business of the House of Commons being now over, and nothing particularly important in the *public*, I take the earliest opportunity of renewing my canvass, and apologizing to the freeholders whom I have not had the pleasure of waiting upon, feeling fully confident that I shall not have suffered in your good opinions by pursuing the line of conduct which a conscientious sense of duty so clearly dictated.

Believe me, though for so long a time unavoidably absent from the county, my heart has not been less alive to the general warmth and kindness with which my applications have been received, and my pretensions encouraged; and which lead me to anticipate (and I trust without presumption) the most flattering and decided testimony of your support on the days of nomination and election.

Begging you to be assured I shall lose no time in paying my personal respects generally through the county, and spare no pains to avoid missing any one freeholder in my canvass,

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

With feelings of the highest gratitude,

Your faithful and devoted servant,

PAUL METHUEN.

42, *Upper Grosvenor Street*, *May* 18, 1818.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE birth, parentage, and education of myself or any other of your correspondents, can signify nothing in the estimation of judicious men. Whether I am more or less than fourscore years of age, or whether I reside at Swindon, at Devizes, or elsewhere, are questions of the same importance to you and to the public as whether I am layman or clerk, whether I am of gigantic stature or a pigmy, or whether my complexion be black, brown, or fair. My opponents would do better to refute

my arguments than to descant upon the supposed period of my birth or the place of my residence. Far abler would it be to persuade the freeholders that our free exercise of the elective franchise is compatible with the territorial claim of the possessor of the house of Draycot, than to calumniate the private character of an individual so obscure as I am, to insinuate sometimes that I am old and insignificant, sometimes that I am a youthful imposter, one week that I am stupid and inoffensive, and another that I am slanderous and absurd, that my views are selfish and indirect, my motive sordid, and my object base.

The truth which I promulgate, and the reasons which I advance, would be of equal weight though I were a stranger to Swindon and its neighbourhood, and knew as little of our county history as the gentleman who would have persuaded us that the heir and representative of Mr. Goddard was actually present at the repast provided for his friends at the Castle at Marlborough. If the place assigned for the dating of my letters were wholly fictitious, it is a deception to be forgiven by those who do not censure that attempt to illude the county which yet remains without apology or explanation.

I hate the midnight assassin and the anonymous libeller. In the moral scale they hold the same station, and are equally detestable. But if I were what my enemies represent me, capable of inflicting a deadly blow upon a political adversary under the security of a fictitious name, yet the nature of the depending contest would be untempered by my malignity. Unaffected by all scurrility, and all the base contrivances to which low-minded men resort, to obscure the truth and to suppress the fair pretensions of one Candidate or another, the question for our decision is simple and unchangeable. If the representation of our county be the heir-loom of a particular family; if a stranger, possessing an interest for life in the ample possessions of that family, may therefore found a claim to represent us; if the boast of the support of government, the splenetic censure of professional gentlemen unfriendly to his cause, the application of abusive epithets to magistrates, the wide dissemination of an attack upon the *private* character of his opponent, the ostentatious display of property in several counties twenty times repeated in the public newspapers, and the gratuitous entertainment of a party of freeholders and others at a tavern carousing till late in the following day; if these be the legitimate means of rendering homage to the independence of the county, then we ought not to hesitate in our choice of a representative at the approaching election. As little shall we hesitate, if we prefer a gentleman whose merits are now too clearly ascertained to need recapitulation, and against whom his bitterest adversaries cannot now make any objection, but that his

cause is espoused by magistrates, that his attention has long been devoted to our local interests, that he has had the honesty through life to act according to his own judgment even at the risk of popularity, and that he is rewarded for that honesty by the irreconcileable enmity of many who are esteemed the most adverse to our constitution both in church and state.

I remain, Gentlemen, your constant reader,

*Swindon, May 22,* 1818. THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

" What damned errour, but some sober brow,
Will bless it and approve it?"—SHAKSPEARE.

SIR,

IF it were not known that you had received information of the detailed account of Mr. Wellesley's friends' dinner being ordered to be published by your own printers, before you gave similar orders for the publication of your last letter, *even I* should join yourself in "*lamentable lamentation*".

It has been hinted to me by a very grave personage, in a company equally as grave as himself, that the writer of No. 6, which bears date the 15th instant, more resembles *a Young Rake* of Salisbury than an *Old Moon-Raker* of Swindon.

Whether this be true, or not, it is of no importance to me to know.—I would rather look to the substance of a man's letter, than to his anonymous signature, be it *old* or *new*; —but I regret I cannot in your letter find "*aught of substance*" to remark on, except two or three substantial mistakes, which neither age nor youth can excuse;—and however averse I may be from making the observation, yet the signature under which you have attempted to disguise yourself, cannot in strictness be considered as any thing less than an insult upon each and every one of the freeholders of this great county.

Without referring to your poetical allusions, or to Captain Goddard's pedigree, (the authors of both of which are no doubt perfectly familiar to *you*,) how you can have the effrontery to write (as spoken by Mr. Wellesley) that which he never uttered, would be a matter of some astonishment to me, if your real name were disclosed. Mr. Wellesley did not say that "*even when a poor man he might have been a peer*;" nor was the report of his speech (*however incorrect*) to *that* effect; but he did say that "*he refused to become the minion of ministers at that time:*" And as to his "*ability to purchase any rotten borough,*" (although that was not the expression,) yet he must be a mere novice in parliamentary lore, who is not aware that the richest men in the

kingdom can, and that many, if not most of them, do, perpetually perform that wonderful exploit.

I had hoped that the term "*local interests*," which you apply to one of the candidates, as if those interests were the best qualifications he possesses, had already received a sufficient definition, and been treaten by Mr. Wellesley with the contempt which the expression justly merits, in his memorable and *provoking* speech at Marlborough; a speech which certainly has not been correctly reported; a speech which for manliness of sentiment, for energetic eloquence in its delivery, and for poignant wit and playful humour, did infinite honour to his head and heart.

I, in my turn, "*lament*" that you had neither the good fortune nor the consequent pleasure of being present at that dinner: you would certainly not then have bewildered yourself with the errors, into which a careless report, and your still more careless perusal of it, have involved you; but you would inevitably have lost a considerable portion of that splenetic virulence and acrimony, which you affect to exhibit against a gentleman, of whom (you will excuse me for saying it) you undoubtedly can form no correct judgment whatever.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

VERITAS, *Junior*.

*Broad Blunsdon, near Swindon, May* 23, 1818.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

SIR,

As you have not thought it worth while to shew even common respect to the freeholders of our county, but have preferred addressing weekly epistles to your printers; and as I have neither the time, nor the vanity to become a writing agent for any man! and never should have an idea of *placarding* my party writings so that being sent to the professional agents of a certain candidate, they may, like puffs and play bills, be left under the knockers of our doors. I adopt another course; and, without apology, address the old gentleman of 1772.

It is really deplorable that you should be necessitated to *rake* for arguments from the transactions of a public dinner;—In this instance you do indeed carry us back to the moon-raking follies and "*propensities*" of other days; and your conduct forms an excellent appendix to the *ill-complimentary* signature affixed to your *periodical* epistles;—for a grave old gentleman, evidently approaching your second childhood, you really revert to the good things of a recent entertainment with a considerable splice of youthful predi-

lection; and though your "eventful history" is approaching its last act, you utter, pretty fluently, the echo of former delights:—

> "You cannot but remember that such things were,—
> "That were most precious to you."

But however the remembrance of *past* delights may associate with your present garrulity, it has been observed that other, and less irritating, and more serious occupations than mingling in the confusion of contested elections, would better suit the infirmities of age; and it is very obvious that the satire you imply on some of the pastors of our establishment disgraces those infirmities. It is also not a little impolitic with reference to the object of your advocacy, inasmuch as it has been hinted that, so far from generally studying the approbation of the ministers of the gospel, he does not rank too highly some of its most serious and most essential doctrines. Neither can I see why a gentleman of honour, and of property, and of independence, and undoubted ability, degrades himself more by joining a respectable and uninfluenced party of his friends at a "tavern" in Marlborough, than if he had been at a three and sixpenny * club ordinary, at Deptford Inn, or with other good friends, and worthy friends, and dear friends of our county, who had nominated and dictated to us our parliamentary representatives at Beckhampton Inn.

To be sure extreme age is an excuse for infirmity of mind; but how could you be so very incautious as to omit, in the Journal of Monday *morning*, the very *admirable note*†, arising from a difference of a report in two newspapers, in your Monday noon's edition? You must, indeed, have a speedy messenger to convey from Swindon to Salisbury this after-thought, a very "Ariel to do your bidding," or have you a *friend at Court*. You argue ill for your cause in claiming merit for a gentleman because he deduces no advantage to his from wealth, from descent, or from connection: he ought to do so—it would be some of his best passports to our suffrages, for it would render him more independent: mere local abilities, and local exertions, however well applied, will never create an efficient county member. But I believe the gentleman is right; for his property, I fear, is not a great deal to boast of, his descent not very noble, and his connection too limited to form even the shadow of a pretension, or

* I believe the price at which the Deptford Club Quorum were served at their unconstitutional and unwiltshire-like meetings.

† The expressions you have attributed to Mr. Wellesley and others, did not appear in the "first printed account of the dinner at Marlborough;" this is a wilful mistake of your's, but its art is too shallow to need illustration. It is, however, at his time of life, very much beneath the Old Moon Raker.

to constitute the foundation of this candidate's address. But admit him all the merits you attempt to substantiate, there are *opposed* to him *others* which claim our approval, "and it is not likely we shall err respecting them."

I am Sir, yours, &c.

"*Neither* HERE *nor* THERE." 1818.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR *reverend* correspondent C. L. is well know as a most pertinacious controversialist, and as a gentleman of superior parts, which he might have exhibited without any remark from me, had he not thought fit to bring my signature before the public, coupled with insinuations which I feel myself called on to repel. Poor Pangloss too, who attempted only to raise a harmless laugh against the "Quorum," cannot escape your correspondent's vigilance, but is lumped in with all those who have dared to speak in Mr. Long Wellesley's favour; and it is insinuated that we have resorted to "revolutionary slang and levelling principles." These are "prave words," as Sir Hugh Evans has it, and very convenient terms of abuse for any malignant scribbler to scatter on the heads of those who differ from him, for they may mean any thing or nothing as occasion requires. Will this sagacious gentleman then have the charity to inform us to whom or to what he intends to affix them? His own letter indeed abounds in "slang," and is a strange fartago of disjointed sentences, in some of which the words are jumbled together in one confused mass on true "levelling principles," without any head, whilst others (like the Wiltshire Agricultural Society) are all head and leading members without either body or tail.

This reverend correspondent of your's may be as warm as he pleases in the cause of his friend; the supporters of Mr. L. Wellesley claim only a similar indulgence, but they will not suffer themselves to be put down as revolutionists and levellers.

There was a time when the reverend gentleman did not think so highly of his present favorite candidate; for instance, when *he preached at him* so loudly, or when he addressed to him a letter of monition such as is used in the Church of Rome, summoning him (not indeed to auricular confession, but) to give an account of his religious faith. The answer must have been strictly orthodox and unequivocal, as it appears to have satisfied all the doubts of the reverend gentleman, which may account for the warmth of his present attachment; though

some idle people have insinuated that worldly motives have had a share in effecting this change, the reverend gentleman having been observed to cast many a "longing look" towards the shoes of a certain gouty incumbent, not an hundred miles from Devizes; but this I set down as mere "revolutionary slang." I do not understand what he refers to when he says that "with some Satan is an Angel of Light." Perhaps he may himself intend to make an angel of his new favourite, whom not long since he would have made a devil of; or possibly his meaning may be better illustrated by a perusal of "The Infernal Quixote;" but I must leave these points for your correspondent to explain in another electioneering puff, or in his next letter of admonition to any gentleman whose religious faith he may hold to be doubtful. His learned exposition of the word "Quorum" was not wanting to ensure my respectful attention and ready obedience to the magistracy, when acting in their proper sphere; but when I see any of them affecting airs of superiority in other relations of life, and attempting to exercise authority in concerns to which their jurisdiction does not extend; when I see clubs of magistrates established for purposes of political dictation, I consider such acts as an odious species of petty tyranny, which I abhor, and which whilst I have life and strength I will resist as far as I am able.

I have stated in a former letter how our county elections were managed for forty years, namely, from 1772, when Mr. Goddard was elected, to 1812, when Mr. Methuen offered himself. During that period no member was chosen for the county, but through the medium of the two clubs, and it is sufficiently "notorious" how much disturbed they were when Mr. Methuen offered himself to the general choice of the freeholders, without *their* previous sanction: I chanced to hear enough of their discontents and grumblings. The most active and virulent opponents of Mr. L. Wellesley are the very persons who wish to restore these clubs to their pristine vigour; but they have lost their ascendency, and if the independent freeholders ever suffer them to resume it, they would richly deserve any trammels that might be thereafter imposed on them.

Whilst your correspondent was so triumphantly illustrating (for the edification of the unlearned) the meaning of the word "Quorum," he might have done his friends more service if he had explained how it happened that out of nearly an hundred magistrates, sixteen only (afterwards reduced to twelve) should have appropriated to themselves the charges advanced by Mr. L. Wellesley; or how it is to be accounted for, that the twelve, instead of denying those charges,

have satisfied themselves by *defying* Mr. W. to *prove that which he has never asserted:*

> " Quoth Ralph, how great I do not know,
> " They may by being beaten grow;
> " But none that see now here they sit,
> " Will judge them overgrown with wit."

If in this early stage of the contest, angry words and harsh expressions have been resorted to, the opponents of Mr. L. Wellesley may thank themselves for it; for I will venture to assert that no gentleman of decent character, fortune, and connections, was ever before assailed with such foul and unmerited abuse. The scandalous tales which have been circulated respecting him have been all sufficiently refuted, and the propagators of them have lowered their tone; but some of the writers against him, though they affect moderation and candour, cannot yet conceal their deep-rooted malignity. His friends do not wish to bolster him up either by his high family connections, or by his extensive property; they merely claim for him the same courtesy which would be due to any respectable man of good estate in the county, who might offer himself for its representation. He would have given way to Mr. Estcourt, to Mr. Penruddocke, or others, whose pretensions he considered to be superior to his own; but he presumes on being quite as eligible a person to represent us in Parliament as his present opponent, and is therefore determined fairly to try his strength with him; he has the fairest prospect of success; and his enemies may rest assured that they will not succeed in their attempts to write him down. To protect myself from the insinuations of your reverend correspondent, I have been again led to obtrude on the public; it certainly was not my wish; but when I am attacked I shall continue to defend myself with such weapons as fall in my way. I am, Gentlemen, truly,

A NATIVE.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM daily continuing my personal canvass: and I again gratefully acknowledge the numerous promises of support which I constantly receive in every district of the county.

During the last week I have visited the distant parishes of Oakingham, Swallowfield, Hurst, and Shinfield.

To the freeholders of that district, I am bound to return my most cordial thanks for their kind reception of me, and their flattering promises of support.

I proceed with increasing confidence of ultimate success, and hope very soon to complete the duty of having paid my

personal respects to every freeholder of this independent county.

I remain, Gentlemen, your most devoted servant,

*Marlborough, May 22,* 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## *To the Independent Electors of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE writer in the last Journal who signs himself "A Clothier," assumes the garb of honest sincerity, that he may with the greater effect calumniate a most respectable body of his neighbours; and, instead of reading, hearing, and looking about him to enable him "to judge and determine" who of the candidates for the honour of representing the county are the most fit for that high and important office, he appears on the present occasion disposed to spit his venom at the magistracy of the county. Some of my acquaintance think he has been disappointed of *magisterial honours;* I rather suppose him to be an *ex*-publican, who lost his license for some impropriety of conduct. He declaims against the 'Notorious Quorum."—"Brother Freeholders," who are so likely to be interested in upholding the honour and independence of the county, as "*a select company of gentlemen,*" whose property and character have pointed them out, as the most proper persons to be armed with the powers of magistracy? Who so capable of directing our choice in this important affair? This writer asks where these gentlemen got their independence—if they bought it? I would answer they inherit their independence as their birth-right, transmitted from a free and honourable ancestry, and that they are determined to transmit it to their children, pure and unsullied, from ministerial patronage and court favour. If the Clothier wishes to be informed where independence is bought and sold, I would recommend him for information on that point to Lord Castlereagh, the friend of Mr. Long Wellesley. I am not personally known to either of the Candidates, who aspire to represent us in Parliament, and am in no way interested in the election of one in preference to another, *only* so far as the honour and independence of the county is concerned. Of the three gentlemen who are canvassing the county, Mr. Methuen is too firmly rivetted to your affections by the faithful discharge of parliamentary duties to be the subject of a remark. Of the other two, Mr. Benett is a plain country gentleman, a native of our soil, a man of *talent* and *integrity*, who has always resided amongst us, whose principles are strictly independent and constitutional: he is not likely to barter your rights and liberties, to sacrifice his

character, and forfeit your good opinion, for any bauble the ministry may bestow on him. The other candidate, (Mr. Long Wellesley, (as he himself stated at Marlborough,) "is not of celestial origin,—he was born somewhere,"—but certainly not in Wiltshire; who boasted that when poor, which was before he got his *Long* purse, his (ministerial) influence could have secured him any rotten borough in the kingdom, or even a title! He has a seat in the House of Commons, and has avowed *his* principles on all great and national occasions, to be decidedly against the public opinion. Mr. Long W———y was one those who *voted for* and *passed* the corn bill; and he has been uniformly on the ministerial side, when a *pension* was to be granted, or the public *purse invaded* to reward a *court favorite*!—I shall close my remarks by observing, that it would be a reflection on the common sense of the county not to elect our members from amongst our own gentry Mr. Benett has been pointed out to us by a most respectable body of independent Wiltshire gentlemen, as highly qualified to fill that honourable and important situation. They are fully competent to appreciate his merits, and I trust we have too much independent firmness left amongst us to be induced to part with our high character by the flimsy eloquence of bacchanalian oratory; and that we shall not, like an unthinking girl, sacrifice our liberty and independence, to gratify the *vanity* of a mere *Dandy*.

*Trowbridge, May* 21, 1818. A SCRIBBLER.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

WHAT is the matter now?—You were on your high horse last time we saw you; now you belong to the dismounted cavalry! You don't surely mean to die dung! Don't give it up yet: let us have new editions of the old letters; that will do every bit as well as the *old story* in a *new epistle*.—Why are you so chop-fallen? The supercilious has left your style, and the sneer has forsaken the countenance where intelligence sat enthroned, and where a thousand loves and graces manufactured grins! Why were you not at the dinner? You had an early ride to a late repast; but I know your motive—"the end of a feast is better than the begining of a fray!" I know that your "propensities" are not warlike; though on some occasions the ebullitions of your courage have required the timely interpositions of the magistrate, to suspend for a while its *dreadful* consequences. Or, did you not like the group? They were a motley herd! Annual Parliaments and Universal Suffrage in the chair; supported by any thing, every thing, nothing, on the one hand;

and on the other, the man who said, *that provided Government would lend their aid to raise the price of corn, he would cheerfully continue to pay, during the peace, those taxes which he had paid during the war*, and that, too, at the very time when he was sending to his tenant to pay his game-keeper's wages! You were wise not to go so soon into such company; it shewed your opinion of the Pythouse mixture; the coat would do very well in the dark, but you were fearful that the livery might be recognised; and though you were compelled for a moment to put it on, you forbore to do it, until the consequences had ceased to excite apprehension. They drank, no doubt, the health of the Old Moon-Raker, and you replied with all the modest diffidence of a lady's maid who has just pricked the romp of her mistress! Your attachment in old times, too, perhaps, prevented you from giving your illustrious sanction to an event so "new in the chronicles of Wiltshire;" or more probably the uncertain condition of your *tête-à-tête* arrangements since the demise of your faithful Mercury occasioned those attentions at home, which eventually produced disappointment abroad. At any rate it must have been galling to associate on terms of friendship with the very men who black-balled your exertions for the admission of your bosom friends into the club; or to drink the healths of men at Marlborough, who refused you a cup at the Deptford Inn. It was rude and unmannerly of them; but they suffer none but men of degree to join the conclave; and though now they will thank you and them for a vote, they deemed it prudent on that occasion to dispense with you company. Besides, you would never have been able to have preserved your gravity while they were prating about their *independence*! You know that the meeting was called for the very purpose of affixing the seal to the degradation of the county, and confirming in power that hateful oligarchy which has, for forty-six years, held the freeholders of Wilts in the trammels of precedent, and, to inspire our affections with a love of which blessed state, the whole of your labours were directed, the moment a glimpse of freedom dawned upon the representation of Wilts. Your endeavours have been incessant, but without variety; there is scarce a shade of difference between your first production and the one before me, while the intermediate ones partake of the disgusting insanity of both.

Now you have been traced to your lurking place, and deception can no longer be of service to you, you attempt to excuse the cheat by saying, that *residence*, *age*, or *name*, are matters of no consequence where *truth* is the object. This is one way to be sure of getting out of it, did I choose to let

you escape; but your object was *misrepresentation*, and not *truth*; and you attempted, by the specious introduction of age and place to give plausibility to fiction, and credibility to falsehood; for the express purpose of counteracting the intentions of a rival candidate, and for promoting the interests of another, who, I believe, has too much honour to thank you for the dishonourable artifice.—That cause must be bad which is under the necessity of resorting to such methods to ensure success; and the agent who can employ them, though he may succeed in the deception, cannot fail of securing his own reproach; and if discovered, be precisely in the situation in which you are at present.—The burden of your story is perpetually the transactions which you witnessed in 1772; that you assisted in the struggle; that you have ever since that period celebrated the anniversary of it; and that the cause in which you are engaged derives its value from the similarity of their causes and the nature of the contest. Than this nothing can be more false. You were not born at the time, and your principles through life have been diametrically opposed to those you now affect to hold so much in reverence, and for which you have compromised your character for consistency and even for truth. Looking on your letters as a whole, they are the grossest imposition on the freeholders of Wilts that ever has been practised upon any set of men, or under any circumstances; and when you appear before us again, you must come with all your strong arguments, without the aid of Swindon, the exhilirating glass which you used to drink on the anniversary of dear 1772, and set free from all the warmth which your old heart had been accustomed to muster!

It is truly laughable after all your efforts to persuade us that you really were an old fellow, and an inhabitant of Swindon, and an elector in 1772, to hear you say in your letter to the Printers of the Salisbury Journal (with whom you seem very intimate), "The birth, parentage, and education of myself, or any other of your correspondents, can signify nothing in the estimation of judicious men; whether I am more or less than fourscore years of age, or whether I reside at Swindon or Devizes," &c. Here I must differ from you; it is from your age and alledged place of residence, that your imposition has derived its success; for if you are not of the age you represent—if you are only forty instead of eighty years of age, you could not have been present at the election in 1772; and had you not dated your letter from Swindon, you would never have been able to have persuaded one freeholder that your letters either came from the Goddard family, or from persons connected with them. If it signifies nothing with

judicious men where you reside, or what your age, why did you mention it? Why was it introduced by you? You mean that should *signify* something; nothing you say with "judicious" men; but the fools you thought might be ensnared! Your letters it seems are addressed to two classes of readers, the "judicious" and those who are not so; you are not so pointed as your employer; though you insinuate that the freeholders are fools, you do not tell them so; now he boldly declares his opinion, and divides them between salmons and sharks! The folly of your still affixing Swindon to the fag-end of your epistle, now that the bubble's broke, is truly ridiculous; believe me it signifies nothing *now* from whence you write, nor about what you write; only remember you must not claim that exemption for yourself, which you will not allow to others. With *you*, birth, parentage and education, and even *residence*, is nothing; it has no reference whatever to truth, has no effect upon your argument, it is nothing to the freeholders where you live or what you are; the performance of your duty is every thing! With *Mr. Wellesley* however, birth, parentage and education, and especially *residence* is every thing, these are indispensables in *his* case; with you I grant, though they "can signify nothing in the estimation of judicious men."

You challenge an answer to your arguments. *Arguments* did you say? I have looked through the whole of your letters, and I cant't find *one*, nor the semblance of one. You do not call that stale story which concludes your letter *arguments*. You surely do not mean that. They have been answered again and again, and are now converted into a laughing stock. I have often heard that a man may tell a lie so often, that at length he may himself believe it true; and it is commonly said, that if you repeat a story to a man every day for a year, in the last he'll be convinced of its certainty. You imagine the freeholders of Wilts are of this description; at all events you determine to try the experiment, taking care that their faith should not lack of increase for want of telling. Your attempt to mislead the freeholders with regard to the introduction of Mr. Goddard's name is characteristic of that native meanness and art of which you have so large a supply. I ought not to blame you; it is nature in you, and you cannot help it. It shews by-the-bye how miserably you are put to your shifts when obliged to resort to such low and disingenuous practices; but it shews also in what a contemptible light you view the freeholders of Wilts, in supposing that they are so easily to be duped, in a matter so glaringly opposed to truth and propriety. You know that in the Salisbury Journal of the the 17th, the gentleman who presided at

he dinner at the Castle Inn, is stated to be the *relative* of Mr. Goddard, the representative of the late member for the county. It was stated otherwise in the Thursday's paper of the 14th, but that account was corrected in the Journal of the 17th; the latter a paper to which I believe at all times you can have pretty free access. The first account was published on the 14th in the Salisbury Gazette, and you know that you read that account at *Swindon* on the 15th; ha! ha! ha! and on the same day wrote a reply, and had it in the press on the 16th!!! Nothing like expedition! Your posts, like those of Ahasuerus, travelled quick; "the king's business being in haste." Occupied in perusing your own production on Sunday the 17th (and what is so gratifying as to read such charming effusions) I forgive you for not attending to the amended report of the dinner a Marlborough; but you surely have had sufficient time since, and there can be no apology for forcing such a wilful and malicious (to give it its softest name,) mis-statement upon the public. I ask you with what face (poh! I know the face!) you can have the hard-hearted effrontery to tell the world, that that statement respecting Mr Goddard remains without *apology or explanation?* You were sadly in want of materials, when you were compelled to hunt for a case in such a quarter! How are the mighty fallen! Your letter, independent of the pretty tale I have cited, is nothing from beginning to end but old women's stories, of what people say about you, and then stories that you have to tell of them! Give a little rest to your aged gums! You have really talked or wrote yourself into a passion. I thought you would have shown a little more philosophy, more temper; but I find that, like old Sigtub after he was made a justice, you discover that you are still a man!

You seem to think you have got *enemies*! I am sorry for it, if you really have; but your delirium has occurred so frequently of late, that I must be under the necessity of calling in question your opinion on that head. The thief imagines every bush a messenger; and the man who has endeavoured to deserve enemies, usually lays his account with making them. I assure you, I am not your enemy as a *man;* but, as an old Moon-Raker, I'll have war with you until the flag of distress, which you displayed on Sunday, is succeeded by an unconditional surrender. As a Moon-Raker, I am your foe; I hope every man in Wilts will be your foe; but, as a *man,* I am not opposed to you; and, if in the heat of contention, a word should escape the pen, which may, by fair construction, imply the contrary, I would instantly blot it out from the records of our truly agreeable correspondence.

I have not witnessed any of the abuse of which you complain, but I am not sorry to hear that you have received it;

your cause merits it, and the way in which you have conducted that cause, more than the cause itself. I am not here referring to you alone, but of the party of whom you are the head; and to the system that they have adopted with regard to Mr. Wellesley. You will recollect, probably, that he too received a trifling portion of what you complain. Where were your sensibilities then? They appear to be cuttingly alive now; it touches you, and you murmur; but with what shew of reason? The very letter that contains your lamentations, is brimfull of invective against that gentleman. Probably you imagine, that, by inflicting a wound on another person, you will lessen your own suffering. I have read of tyrants who resorted to this method of removing trouble, but have never heard that it succeeded. In every point of view, Mr. Wellesley has been the object of your censure and sly invective; your opposition to him has been petulant, mean, and unmanly! He had to complain of "midnight assassins and anonymous libellers;" and you know pretty well to whom he referred. He was laughed at when he complained, and a fresh volley of abuse was all the sympathy he experienced. He has been calumniated as a son and a servant; as a man and a master; as a husband and a father; and when he resented such unmanly, base, and ungenerous conduct, and called his calumniators by the proper name, you were the man who sent round that stupid, and egregiously foolish requisition to the county magistrates in your neighbourhood (not *Swindon!*) to procure signatures, calling on Mr. Wellesley to define the meaning of "*Notorious Quorum.*" Your success was very bad, and bad it deserved to be, for this was the base return you made his honourable and unsuspecting mind for complimenting you, though his adversary, with the choice of his agent. How little must you appear in your own eyes, would you but condescend to take a look! How little you appear in our eyes, when complaining under that lash which you have so unsparingly applied to the shoulders of another! Yet, though so much at odds, we shall agree at last. Like you, I have the same aversions, but not the same attachments. "I hate the midnight assassin, and the anonymous libeller:"—"in the moral scale they hold the same station, and are equally detestable!"

Adieu, for the present,

MY OLD HEART.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity, after renewing my canvass, of acknowledging, with gratitude, the obligations which I am

under to the friends who have taken care that my interest should not suffer while I was unavoidably absent in attending my duty in the House of Commons.

But it is to the county at large that I am indebted for the support which I have to boast of in every district; and the best return which I can promise, if I am again seated by them in Parliament, is an honest discharge of the sacred trust reposed in me; and, above all, a vigilant eye over the application of the public money.

I feel myself now called upon, in consequence of reports of coalition with another candidate, to account for my presence at the dinner at Marlborough. I shall state the circumstances, and I am sure they will speak for themselves, without further comment or explanation :—

I received some time back an invitation from my friend Mr. Fulwar Craven, to dine with a party of freeholders. I unfortunately accepted the invitation; and afterwards received another letter from that gentleman, informing me that Mr. Benett also was invited,—when I immediately declined dining there, stating, that it might appear like a coalition.

I actually passed through Marlborough on Friday, (the day of the dinner,) and had proceeded five or six miles when I met Mr. Atherton and a party of gentlemen from Calne, who pressed me very much to return, and really would take no refusal, saying they had come all the way to meet me, as I had accepted the invitation they understood, and that it was a freeholders' dinner, and not Mr. Benett's. Under these circumstances (and I appeal to Mr. Atherton for the truth) very much against my own opinion or inclination, I could not do otherwise than return; particularly as they informed me (which I had heard before, but did not credit) that Mr. Wellesley himself was to be there. I can only say that I returned to dine with a large body of my constituents, who had done me the honour of inviting me, without intending the smallest benefit to the cause of one candidate at the expense of the other; and under similar circumstances, had the dinner been called by the friends of Mr. Wellesley instead of those of Mr. Benett, I should have acted in the same manner, without the slightest difference whatever.

I therefore beg again to disclaim any coalition; and trust, with the fullest confidence, to the candor of my constituents, and my own character for veracity, to have full credit given me for the real truth of the statement; and the renewed assurance "that no consideration whatever shall induce me to take any part, directly or indirectly, with any other candidate."

Thanking you all for your support, and begging you most earnestly to believe that it is my desire to wait personally

upon every freeholder, if possible, before the dissolution of parliament, I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your grateful devoted servant,

*Salisbury, May 27*, 1818. PAUL METHUEN.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

MR. METHUEN having, in an address to you, appealed to me for the truth of his statement of the circumstances which led to his being at the dinner at Marlborough, on the 22nd instant, I lose not a moment in confirming it.

Mr. Craven's advertisement of the dinner being a general invitation to the freeholders *who were interested in supporting the independence of election*, some of my neighbours and myself, without regard to the candidates we meant to support, determined to attend the meeting, and our numbers were increased by a report that the three Candidates would be there. On our way to Marlborough we met Mr. Methuen, who had passed through that town on his road home from London. We expressed our surprise at meeting him, telling him that we expected to have found him at the dinner. He replied that it was a dinner of Mr. Benett's friends, and he had an objection to being at it, as it would have the appearance of a coalition of interests; I answered, that I should *not* have attended *a party* meeting on either side; that the call was general to the friends of independence, among whom we reckoned him and ourselves; that we were going to the meeting purely in that character, some of us favouring Mr. Wellesley, and some Mr. Benett, but all preferring him; that the friends of neither Candidate could, with any propriety, call themselves *exclusively* the friends of independence, and that no one, attending to the advertisement, could construe his presence into a coalition. We also added, that we expected Mr. Wellesley would be there, and after using something of that *license* which returns to the freeholders once in seven years (thanks to the *honest* Parliament for not making it seventy) we prevailed on him to return with us.

This is the true history of Mr. Methuen's appearance at the dinner. I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

*Calne, May 29*, 1818. NATH. ATHERTON.

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## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

ON the 22nd day of May, 1818, pursuant to the call of Fulwar Craven, Esq. a meeting of the freeholders, who felt an

interest in supporting the independence of the county, was held at the Duke's Arms Inn, Marlborough. After the usual toasts of the King, &c. had been given; the chairman proposed, "*The Independence of the County;*" upon which Mr. Atherton, of Calne, rose and said, that as this meeting had been called by Fulwar Craven, Esq. a gentleman known as a friend to independence, he considered his name as a guarantee that the meeting was intended purely for the support of the independence of the county, and not to advance any party interest; and, after observing with great effect upon every proposition which he afterwards offered as resolutions for the adoption of the meeting, and receiving great applause for every sentiment contained in his speech, proposed the following Resolutions:—

*First,* That independence of election consists in every freeholder exercising his right of voting in the choice of a representative in parliament, unawed by rank and power, and uninfluenced by hope of reward, or fear of injury.—*Second,* That the freeholder's suffrage is his own property; and that those who aim, by *intimidation* of any sort, to deprive him of it, or resent his using it according to his own will, commit a great crime against society, are enemies to the constitution, and to the independence of the county, and forfeit all claim to respect from their neighbours and dependants.—*Third,* That it is the right of every man to express his opinion, with freedom and candour, of the principles, the character, and conduct of every candidate for a seat in Parliament; and, beyond that, we, in our several situations, will use no influence to induce any voter, who may be connected with, or dependent upon us, to prefer one candidate to another.—*Fourth,* That the enormous expense attending contests for the representation of counties, prevents many men of independent minds, who are not trading politicians, from becoming candidates, and not unfrequently leaves the freeholders no choice, or a very bad one; and that it is from the dread of expense alone, and not from a love of indolence, nor a want of will to serve their country, that many gentlemen, eminently qualified by fortune and talent to represent us in Parliament, remain in privacy.—*Fifth,* That we will use our influence with, and endeavour to prevail on, freeholders, who are in suitable circumstances, to attend the election at their own expense, considering it a disgrace for such persons to be carried and fed by others; and that we will, in all other respects, endeavour to keep down the expenses of the contest, with a view to induce other gentlemen to come forward on future occasions, as well as to serve those who have declared themselves Candidates on the present.

Notwithstanding every sentiment that Mr. Atherton uttered was greatly applauded, a friend of Mr. Benett's rose, and

stated that as the friends of Mr. Wellesley had not come to any resolutions to refrain from using undue influence, *there was no reason why they should adopt Mr. Atherton's;* but he did not mention any instance in which undue influence had been exercised by the friends of Mr. Wellesley.—The resolutions were then put and rejected by a great majority, some gentlemen holding up both hands against them.—Afterwards (in the interval Mr. Benett had made his speech) the same friend of Mr. Benett, being sensible of the propriety of adopting Mr. Atherton's propositions, rose and said that he did not mean *they should be rejected.* Mr. Atherton, in reply, said, that the recantation of his friend was like the confession of a monk after committing sin, and was proceeding to remark on the insufficiency of Mr. Benett's declaration of his political principles, when a number of Mr. Benett's injudicious friends interrupted him, and Mr. Atherton and a few friends, who were *anxious* the freeholders should give their votes without any undue influence being exercised, left the room.

VERITAS.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

I ABSTAIN from allusion to private character, which I deem it base to impeach under the cloak of a fictitious name. I wish not to question either the good sense, the erudition, the taste, the liberality, or the honour of those who think they promote the interest of their favourite Candidate, by traducing my humbler talent, my learning, the style of my compositions, the correctness of my judgment, or the integrity of my heart. Though my real name, yet undiscovered, should be branded by the calumnies which it is thought prudent to attach to my fictitious character; though my opponents should accumulate their unprovoked censures on my undefended reputation; yet the pretensions of the respective Candidates are to be weighed without regard to me or to my pretensions, and perhaps without much respect for the superior taste, learning, and liberality of those whose good humour is not unimpaired in the zeal with which they would destroy me.

Of the public character and pretensions of the respective Candidates it is surely fit that we should be fully informed. The representation of the county is not a bauble for the gratification of youthful ambition. It is not merely the appendage of rank and fortune, to be enumerated among the hereditary distinctions of any family, however ancient or respectable. It is a function of high responsibility, and only for that reason to

be accounted honourable; it should be conferred by the independent electors on the man best qualified by intellectual and moral qualities, by the independence of his fortune, and his ascertained acquirements of general and local knowledge, effectually to serve his constituents and the country in the discharge of the important trust committed to him.

One of my correspondents in your last journal informs me that "*I can form no correct judgment whatever*" of his favourite Candidate. This it is of which we continually complain. Should we not be enabled to form such judgment of every Candidate, if not from personal knowledge of his habits and pursuits, yet from information more disinterested than the testimonials of his own tenantry, and more particular than the general acclamations of professed partisans? If unhappily we should delegate the duty of representing us to any who should think more of the honour of the station than of those interests both general and local of which he will become the guardian, though the shame resulting from such error would be common both to him and to us, yet the punishment will be wholly our own. We are indeed unable to form any judgment whatever of a gentleman hardly seen within the limits of our county till he condescended to make it *the county of his adoption*. The freeholders will hardly leave it to chance whether they have an able representative to protect their particular interests in the great scheme of legislation, though the gentleman unknown to them might have exercised talent the most splendid, and displayed virtues the most exalted, in those distant counties which he hitherto selected for his residence.

When that gentleman, as reported in a former journal, stated to his guests at Marlborough that "the mind of our representative should be *free from all local partialities*," and spoke contemptuously of *local knowledge*, and defined *local interest* to be nothing "*but getting the best price for what grows upon the soil*," I thought the definition neither correct nor elegant, and the statement rather calculated to excite the merriment of his audience than to conciliate the confidence and esteem of any class of the freeholders of Wiltshire. It is not to be doubted, that to promote the glory and the solid strength of this renowned empire, if it were necessary, the freeholders of Wiltshire would, as they have ever done, cheerfully submit to those privations which may be required from the community at large: but all possible regard should in all cases be paid by our representative to our local interests; he should diligently study that he might adequately protect them. My correspondent tells me that his favourite Candidate treated the term "*with the contempt which it justly merits;*" (I assure you I quote faithfully from your last journal). There must have

been much *manliness of sentiment, much energetic eloquence, much poignant wit, and playful humour*, which he ascribes to the orator of that day, to reconcile any freeholder to that contempt. We might have expected gentler treatment from a Candidate, even if the prejudice with which we regard our local interests were unworthy of his permanent indulgence, and though his utter inability to understand them were atoned for by more important qualifications.

We are continually told that the gentleman who holds our local interests in contempt, is to be preferred to a candidate who rests upon the support of the clubs at Deptford and Beckhampton. Be it so.—Neither of the clubs has expressed any sentiment respecting either of the present Candidates. Neither of them held a meeting when Mr. Richard Long signified his intention to withdraw from the representation. Mr. Benett was formerly excluded from the consultation of some of the members of the Beckhampton club, which is supposed to have secured the election of Mr. Long. He suggested to Mr. Methuen, six years ago, that the proper way of soliciting the representation of the county was to canvass the freeholders at large. He seconded the nomination of Mr. Methuen at Devizes, and proposed him at Wilton, without any regard to the clubs. Three months ago he commenced his canvass, and has conducted it to this hour, without any reference to the clubs. The respectable family of the Longs is supposed to have predominant influence at the club at Beckhampton, and the interest of that family is actively exerted in the support of his opponent. I do not think that either of the clubs deserves to be stigmatized as the knot of petty tyrants; for I believe that they are as zealous to maintain the independence of the county (which they once contributed to rescue from the control of a single family) as any the most loquacious advocate of the family interest of Mr. Wellesley: But Mr. Benett has never regarded them as political institutions, nor has he solicited their support. Above all other men he has counteracted their political influence, and rests his cause entirely and exclusively upon the hope of obtaining the free and unbiassed suffrages of the great body of the freeholders.

I remain, Gentlemen, your constant reader,

THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

*Swindon, May 29*, 1818.

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DEAR COUSIN MOONRAKER,

YOU must be out of your wits to kick up such a dust about Long Benett. Why should he be knight of the shire

before any body else? What if he has lived like a gentleman at Pythouse these twenty years, and killed his own beef, and brewed his own beer, and made it very good, and been generous enough with it to every body that came, just like his father and grandfather before him—he won't be the better Parliament-man for that. And then he has got all his neighbours to vote for him, and the country gentlemen are all up in his favour, and all the farmers say he is their best friend; and, as a justice, he makes no difference between rich and poor; and he quarrelled with his brother justices about a new jail, because he thought that the expense could be saved to the county by repairing the old jail; and he has thrown away two or three thousand pounds in building a new chapel, that his poor neighbours might not walk three miles to church on a wet Sunday. All this, cousin, is a mere trick, that he has been playing these twenty years, to cheat us out of the county at last: and then he will speak his own mind, whether we like it or not. And did not he make a foolish speech at Warminster about corn, only because he would speak his mind, though he was sure to lose hundreds of votes by it if he ever stood for the county? and did he not say at Devizes that no true Englishman, whether he liked ministers or not, would shoot at the Prince Regent; and that our old government, which you know to be rotten throughout, was, after all, worth defending, and he thought it the best in the world? This, cousin, is all truth; but it won't take me in while I can judge for myself and vote for whom I like best.

There is Mr. Long Wellesley, as pretty a good-looking gentleman as one's eye can fix upon; he was born for a Parliament-man. 'Twould have done your heart good to have heard him speak for an hour at a time at Wilton fair and at Devizes market; and he gave me a five shilling ticket for the best dinner that ever was served at the Castle at Marlborough: and he promises to come and live at Draycot, and says "by Gad" he'll brew as good beer there as ever 'Squire Benett did; and then he is the richest man in all the world, and says if money will get the election he'll spend the Lord knows how much: and then he advertises himself so often, and gets all his tenants to swear that every word he says in his own praise is true: and then he has got the Native and twenty other people to write for him, and I dare say if the truth was known, they are all great men. And then he says that other people speak ill of him, which we should never have known, if he had not told us so himself; and then he cries and sobs so genteely 'twould melt your heart to hear him: and he abuses the justices just as if they were so many pickpockets—and his good father is Master of the Mint, and he

says he has got Government on his side—and notwithstanding he voted for "*that cruel Corn Bill*," Harry Hunt, who swears till he is black in the face that we have no friend upon earth but himself, is determined to come down and vote for him. Lord have mercy upon your poor understanding if you don't see the difference between Long Wellesley and Long Benett. Wellesley for ever!———Yours

JOHN BARLEY-CORN.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I lately attempted to discharge an honest freeholder's duty, in calling your attention to the real question at issue respecting the future independence of Wiltshire freeholders, I was not so shallow as to expect the "Quorum" and their partisans would suffer your thoughts to dwell on the question I endeavoured to bring out from its hiding-place and expose fairly before you.

I should have been gratified if some *gentleman* of known honour and integrity had stepped forward to deny my positions; or, it would have amused me a little, while smoking my pipe, had some shrewd clever wight attempted to controvert them. With either of these my statement has not at present been honoured; but while his betters are chewing the bit and feeling the curb, forth steps a little dapper-looking fellow, with a feather behind his ear, something of a lawyer's clerk, or so, a "scribbler" *of parchments*, forsooth, and charges an honest clothier with a design to "calumniate his neighbours," and of "spitting venom at the magistracy!" and so goes on with a long palaver, as tedious and as little to the purpose as a replication in a Chancery suit.

Such contemptible trumpery would not be worth a moment's attention, but on account of a little *lapsis pennæ* (my son reads Latin sometimes, so I catch now and then a word occasionally) which lets the cat out of the bag, as we clothiers say. But before I notice this *slip* of young Dapper, it may be as well to assure you, on the word of a clothier, that I never aspired to *magisterial honours* in all my born days! I am an honest clothier, gentlemen, and will be nothing more or less so long as I live. I have nothing at all to do with public-houses, except for refreshment on a journey. But all this is neither here nor there; a mere tub thrown out to the whale, a false light set afloat by the "Scribbler," to send you scudding away from the question at issue.

These sort of "scribblers" see a great deal sometimes, and know a little about what is going forward, by means of papers,

parchments, *and so forth* (as they say) that pass through their hands; and they do not always keep their employers' secrets. So this young Marplot has let it all out, blab, just as I told you beforehand. You will remember, brother freeholders, that the true question at issue, as I stated it, has no regard whatever to the merits of either candidate, in any other view than as the success of either may affect the future independence of Wiltshire elections. I openly, and in a straightforward way, charged "a select company of gentlemen, armed with the powers of magistracy," with a design to reduce Wiltshire to the condition of a Cornish borough, themselves occupying the place of a self-elected corporation: and thus our future independence and the birthright of our freeborn children are suspended on the event of the present contest, which is not—mark an honest clothier, gentlemen—the present contest is not whether Mr. Wellesley or Mr. Benett shall go to Parliament for Wiltshire, but whether the "Quorum" shall henceforth and for ever nominate and return any convenient supple-jack at their pleasure, or the body of independent freeholders seek and send to Parliament a representative of their own choosing. In this state of things I called upon you to resist the pretensions of the "Quorum" NOW, by supporting Mr. Long Wellesley, whose opposition to their supremacy is the grand virtue which your present situation calls for.

Now, to this plain charge, and urgent call grounded thereon, what does the "Scribbler" say, possessing, as he does, the knowledge of things behind the curtain? Say, gentlemen; why, after vapouring about "calumny" and "venom," and such nonsense, he admits the charge! and pleads, like a dull school-boy, in defence of the thing charged? Hear him! "Who so likely to be interested in upholding the honour and independence of the county as a select company of gentlemen?" says he! and, if this were not enough, he adds, "who so capable of directing our choice in this important affair?" So, then, they *do* assume to *direct our choice!* This is just like the orator who once addressed the gulled freemen of a western corporation, who, catching a spark of British feeling at the approach of an election day, began to feel a wish to vote as their forefathers had done, *independently*. "Gemmen," says he, "you all know, as how, his honour the mayor, and the justices, and the town-clerk, and all that, are the *most respectable body of gentlemen* among ye, and *fully competent to appreciate the merit* of any candidate that may come in their way. So, gemmen, for my part, I advise you to mind every one his own business, and don't be after disturbing the good old comfortable way that this corporation

has gone on in for a most these hundred years, and never was disturbed but once!"

It were easy to reply to and refute the "Scribbler's" jargon about being "born" to a monopoly of independence! but I cannot willingly contribute to divert your attention from the *one circumstance* that should determine every independent vote at the ensuing election. Secure your independence NOW or *never*. My brother freeholders may be gulled, if they choose it; and they will be gulled if they do not take care; but I am determined that it shall not be my fault, if my son has not a vote as free and as efficient as his father.

*Trowbridge, May* 26, 1818. A CLOTHIER.

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

I SHOULD not trouble you to notice *your* erratum "*to be*" instead of "*be he*" in my letter of May 17, but an anonymous writer, deficient in every liberal construction, perverts it to his purpose. The sentence was thus written—"The obnoxious person, be he a prince, noble, magistrate, parson, lawyer, doctor, or tradesman, finds his *cast* is to suffer for an alleged offence, which, if it were true, would entitle that cast, from every liberal mind, to the greatest commiseration for having so unworthy a member." C. L.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

LIVING in an obscure hamlet on the verge of the county, I have not had the good fortune to be found out during the late canvass either by Mr. Benett or Mr. Long Wellesley, or what is matter of more surprise to me, after I had heard so much of them, "the indefatigable and notorious Quorum." Being also prevented by indisposition from getting much into public, I have had no other means of hearing and judging of the pretensions and politics of our rival Candidates, than by the letters and advertisements in your paper. These therefore, I have perused with peculiar attention; but I must confess, that though I have been greatly amused, I have gained from them but little information on those points that appear to me those alone which we should attend to on the present occasion.

I can indeed sufficiently discover, by the oft repeated testimonials of the most interested, that one of our Candidates is a most excellent landlord, and I will not dispute (though

on this point there is no testimonial from the person most interested) that he may be also a most excellent husband. Nor can I discover that any objection worth our notice has been established against our other Candidate on one of these points. But, gentlemen, I cannot see how these matters at all concern us. If, indeed, we could expect that our representatives were to furnish each of us with an estate, or to marry our daughters, then these points might be worth our attention; but as to the first point we can have no chance from one of them at least, for we see all his estates are occupied by tenants so completely satisfied, that it may be looked on as a moral certainty, that nothing but death will ever divide them from a landlord so beloved; and as to the second point, we all know our Candidates are both married men already.

I observe also in the advertisements in your paper, professions of complete independence from both our Candidates. But when I look to what electioneering advertisements have always been, and recollect that the same professions have invariably been made by those who have afterwards proved themselves the veriest party men of the house, voting through thick and thin always on the same side, I must say (without meaning any disparagement to the intentions of our present Candidates) that such professions do not afford me any satisfactory criterion by which to judge of what is likely to be their future conduct; nor indeed from a careful perusal of all the other letter and addresses in your paper, can I form to myself any probability respecting it.

We are called on to send up to parliament persons who shall represent and speak the voice of the county; yet we remain no ways informed, and it seems we scarcely trouble ourselves to inquire, how in this respect they are likely to vote and acquit themselves in our behalf. We have already one member, in whose favour, as far as I can learn, the general voice will be raised—I will not say the unanimous voice, for in so large a county that can never be expected,—but I am much mistaken if the event will not shew that the great majority of votes in his favour will be such, that no one will be able to contradict the assertion, that he fairly represents the county. Have we then reason to expect, from what we know of our present Candidates, that either of them, if elected, will in like manner carry up and represent the voice of the county? I confess, gentlemen, I have my fears on this head; but at the same time acknowledge, I am without due information to make up my mind on the subject.

If any attempt shall hereafter be made to vote out of the national purse, annuities to persons who have notoriously

lost the good opinion of the public, or to confer pensions and sinecures on those who have no claim but ministerial favour, have we reason to expect that either of our Candidates will (as our present worthy member did on a late occasion, so manfully and so much to his honour) raise their voice against such a prostitution of the public money?

If we can suppose, that when the allied troops may be withdrawn from France, that the nation should, by an unanimous movement, again express their dislike to the person at the head of their government, and our ministers should think fit, by counteracting such movement, again to commit the almost exhausted resources of this country, have we no reason to fear that one or both of our present Candidates would support them in such a project, and thus be the inevitable means of bringing about a re-enactment of that grinding and inquisitorial impost the income tax, and all the disastrous measure that would be the necessary consequences of a renewed war?

If, when the voice of the public is honestly and loudly raised in favour of economy and the abolition of useless and bloated sinecures and pensions, have we no reason to fear that either of our Candidates would suffer the holders of those very sinecures to delude him into a belief of pretended plots in order to silence the public voice and save themselves; and that he would allow himself, and, with himself, the county of Wilts, to be tied up in a green bag and laid on the table?

If, gentlemen, either judging from the past, or in the absence of precise information as to the future, we have reason to suppose that either of our Candidates would thus suffer himself to be bound hand and foot and laid on the table, I trust we shall have spirit enough to be beforehand with the ministers, and ourselves lay him on the shelf.

I remain, your's, &c.

——— *near Swindon, May* 25, 1818. RUSTICUS.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHAT is our good friend "the Moon-Raker about?" He might have been more advantageously occupied with any of his "moon-raking propensities," than in the composition of his last letter. He has abandoned himself! He has fallen into the pit which his enemies had dug for him!—If he gets out at any rate, he must be in a dirty condition.

He has dated all his letters at Swindon, the place of Mr. Goddard's residence; he has amused us with a long story of the "glorious struggle of 1772;"—of the active part he

bore in it,—of his drinking and huzzaing with old Mr. Goddard,—of "great age,"—of the "honour and principles of his family,"—of his own "great spirit of independence;" and now, gentlemen, he has the effrontery to turn short round on us, and cooly tell us, that it is no sort of difference to us whether the whole of this tale is true or false, whether he lives at Swindon or at Salisbury, whether he is old or young, whether he bore any part in the election of 1772, or whether he ever in his life saw Mr. Goddard; whether it is possible for him to have seen the transactions in which he boasts that he bore a part, or whether he was even born at that period; in short, whether he is an impostor, or whether he his not. I conclude also that, by parity of reasoning, he will not allow you to inquire whether he is an independent writer, or hired only for electioneering puposes.

That his "birth, parentage, and education, can signify nothing" to us, is true; except inasmuch as we may deduce from them, whether he has told us facts or falsehoods.

He either *did* or did *not* take a part in the events he has described; if he *did*, why does he not support his original assertion?—If he did *not*, where was his "great spirit of independence" when he practised a gross imposition, in order to give weight to his garbled statements?

But he says, "my opponents would do better to refute my arguments, than to descant upon the supposed period of my birth, or the place of my residence."—His arguments! Where are they to be found? I have seen none of them; but, in their place, I find abundance of insinuation, and irrelevant propositions, exemplified by supposititious facts, which he has misrepresented and disfigured to answer his shabby purpose.

The principles of freedom asserted in 1772 can never be strengthened by such support. The independent freeholders *then* roused themselves to resist a combination of men in authority, who wished to usurp the rights of the electors, and to appoint a representative for the county.—Let it be our business to inquire from what quarter a similar danger is now likely to assail us, and let our efforts be directed accordingly.

Again, he says, "the truth which I promulgate, and the reasons which I advance, would be of equal weight," &c. &c. —Good! but how are we to distinguish what he intends for truth, and what for fiction?—when he means to be in sober reason, or when with his "cousin" in the moon?

Farther, he says, "I hate the midnight assassin and the anonymous libeller: in the moral scale they hold the same station, and are equally detestable."—What does this pompous diatribe mean? To whom does it apply? Can it be better applied than to one who is not only anonymous, but

who disclaims the necessity of bearing the slightest resemblance to the character described by his assumed signature? Or does he imagine, because he has had the art to cover the malice of his attacks under a specious shew of moderation, and has depreciated the candidate that he opposes by sly insinuations—does he, I say, imagine that he is therefore less libellous, less slanderous than he would be if his charges were openly and unequivocally asserted?

All that has been said relative to Mr. Long Wellesley's wish "of restoring to the house of Draycot the honour of representing the county," is too absurd to require notice: I should think that an instance had never yet occurred in election annals, of a body of freeholders being offended, because the candidate for their favour had observed, that his family would feel themselves honoured by their preference.

The story about Mr. Salmon has been ten times explained, and the charges arising out of it refuted;—it commenced nobody knows where, and will terminate nobody knows when, but it is worn completely threadbare.—The proceedings at the Marlborough dinner, though strangely misrepresented, furnish no ground of discredit to Mr. Long Wellesley's cause.

It is fortunate for us that "the question for our decision is simple and unchangeable."—It is simply whether we will submit to be led by the nose, by the same usurped authority which kept us in subjection for forty years, or whether we will exercise a will of our own—whether we choose to "die slaves, or live all free-men."

What a pity it is that all the fine writing of "The Old Moon-Raker" should have been so wasted; all his luminosity so evaporated in smoke, that a farthing rush-light would direct us better on our way!—His next attempt to lead us must be made in some other character—it will be of no use to address us in his old style—"Forty-six years ago I was in the vigour of life, and bore an active part in the glorious struggle," &c. &c. It would be just as much to the purpose, if he were to begin like Ephraim Jenkinson in the Vicar of Wakefield, "The world is in its dotage; and yet the cosmogony, or creation of the world, has puzzled philosophers in all ages," &c.

This won't do; we must have a fresh tale to move us: and if this cunning partisan could manage us as well as he did the appointment of agents for Devizes, I would give him credit, though the policy was rather jesuitical—but we will talk of this another day. For the present, I advise him to lay aside all his old stories, and bury them decently with the full suit of habiliments, in which he has been burlesquing the character of "The Old Moon-Raker of Swindon."

I remain, Gentlemen, your

BROTHER FREEHOLDER.

## A MATCH FOR THE SQUIB.

### *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

SIR,

PRESUMING that my first letter is unanswerable since it merely states facts, and asks no question, I proceed to investigate the *substance* of your last letter, which is really nothing more nor less than a wretchedly manufactured Electioneering Squib. It is true it possesses some of those essential qualities which are requisite to a *squib*, it has the *slow fire*, the *quick fire*, and THE BOUNCE! but they are *loosely* connected! they are not well *rammed in!* a little shaking will ruin the whole composition, and your invaluable production will explode at the application of the first spark, and blow up "the Gentleman" constituting the *bounce in the tail.*

But ere I present to the Printers my *match* (for so I chuse to call this *my* letter) which *their press* is to bring to light, I will *take to pieces* your ill-organised *serpent*, and carefully examine its contents. I will *rake out* the *dross* from your *case*, and expose it to the public eye! I give you notice that I will then apply *my match* to the *mass*, and thus prevent the unwary from falling into danger.

And first, as to the *slow fire*.—More than one half of your squib is composed of a tedious account of yourself; commencing, like the generality of *last dying speeches*, with "the birth, the parentage, and the education." Without vanity I hope I may say that I am one of "your own judicious men, to whom *either* of these pretensions can signify *nothing*." I would rather "refute your arguments," than "descant on your deformities" or beauties. As therefore the *slow fire* is composed of too much *egotism*, I conclude it to be radically bad, and ineffectual.

The *quick fire* is all that relates to Mr. Long Wellesley. Even the *slightest allusion* to him, *be it never so abusive*, brings to *my* mind the illuminating brilliancy of his talents, and all those his commanding qualifications, which have been nurtured and improved in the noblest families in this kingdom; in that school of discipline and glory, the army of his illustrious uncle, the immortal Duke of Wellington, and in the Commons House of Parliament of these realms. Tell us not of "local interests!" We have here in *one* man the gentleman! the soldier! and the senator! The gentleman, by birth, by parentage, and education; every qualification necessary to form that character exists in every act and deed of Mr. Long Wellesley. I wish to put *his* "merits" in competition with those of "that gentleman whose merits" (as you observe) "are now too clearly ascertained." I said Mr. Long Wellesley is a Soldier! I say fur-

ther, although *his* spirit is too great to allow him to be content with mere "local" knowledge, with mere mechanical information; yet that same spirit has accompanied him in the hour of danger! He has gallantly fought the battles of his country! and with whom has he fought them? Why, with a noble relative, whose transcendant fame will doubtless be admired and venerated by your own descendants, Mr. Moon-Raker, forty years hence!! Aye, even after forty years hence! The very Quorum, and the great Fish! and the Old Moon-Raker! and Timothy Trueman, will *then* bear the same weight in the scale of memory as the old Poll Book now bears, and be of the same utility, but of less "notoriety!" The persons who fought those battles with that great man will be admired *then* more than you admire them *now* for their manly conduct, and all those eminent qualities which distinguish the accomplished gentleman and the finished soldier from the man of mere *local information*, and *local habits*, and *local interests*.

I said Mr. Long Wellesley is a Senator! and so he is! and *an independent* one too; there is no cause for his being *otherwise:* he hunts for no place, no pension, no sinecure to repair his shattered fortune, nor does he act under the control of any person or set of persons whomsoever.

As to "the representation of the county being the heir-loom of Mr. Wellesley's family," the assertion began and rests with yourself; and there I leave it.

As to the "interest for life" which Mr. Long Wellesley has! whatever his interest may be, his property (to use your own words) "is certainly as adequate to the station which he aspires to, as any member of the county could boast of in the recollection of the oldest among us."

As to "government influence;" the thing is denied to be true, and known to be false.

As to "the censure of professional gentlemen;" if the minds of only *two* professional men assimilated so nearly as the initials of their names follow in the order of the alphabet, probably the county would not have heard of those names in the whole course of this election tragedy! but certainly not in the *first scene* of the *first act*.

As to "the application of abusive epithets to magistrates;" the repetition of this charge shews the weakness of your powers of invention: it has been answered again and again—it has been met and resisted by Mr. Long Wellesley like many other charges of the enemy. After the manner in which he has discomfited the enemy in this case, it would be cruelty itself to interfere.

As to "the dissemination of private attacks against Mr. Benett;" no *gentleman* can say that Mr. Long Wellesley ever countenanced their circulation in the slightest degree.

As to "the tenants' advertisements;" they were as voluntary as unexpected, and repeated only so often as the tenants themselves requested it.—But

As to "the dinner at Marlborough;" I leave *you* to digest the one; you probably were there on Friday the 22d instant. Any remarks upon *that* independent dinner must be too ridiculous to waste time about, if the reports that have been circulated relative to it are correct.

I leave you to *cool* upon this *quick fire*, with which I think you, in common with some of your friends, either have, or might have, a little *burnt your fingers!*

And now, as to the *bounce in the tail*, I perceive you have placed in that *unenviable* situation "a gentleman," who, I hope, is at least a good tempered man, for his own sake, for he must expect a little rubbing up *now*, and a great deal more at the *Poll*. Next to his "local" qualifications, "his *honesty*, at the risk of popularity," is brought to our view.

No one doubted it!—but it opens the door to a question, Mr. Moon-Raker, and I call upon *you*, as a man advanced a doubt, and not because *I* doubt, "Has your friend, Mr. John Benett, *acted according to his judgment* at the risk of *unpopularity?*" If he has, he has done more than another gentleman who exhibits himself a candidate for the representation of a certain county in Parliament.

You define the honesty which belongs to your favourite Candidate as that which has enabled him to run counter to the general opinion and good judgment of all the rest of mankind! and I admit this extraordinary talent to be, indeed, a most singular qualification for a knight of the shire.

The *allusion* to those whom you call "adverse to the Church," is the *last* and *most combustible article of your composition*. You have inserted it *by mistake* in *the bouncing part of the squib*. It had no business there! and serves to confirm me in my first opinion of the imperfection of your performance in every particular.

I have examined your *stuff* as I promised. I fear it will scarcely go off in a *whiz!* It may perchance *bounce!* but it will most assuredly end in *confusion* and *smoke!* The compositors are at work, and the printers and printer's devils have applied *their press to my match*, and *my match* to *your mass*.—I rest, in safety from its effects; Your's most obediently,

*May 30th.* VERITAS, *Junior.*

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

SIR,

IT is no recommendation to your cause to say *deception* may be necessary to its support; and it is a very serious

*objection* to it that you dare to uphold and toil to defend such deceptions.

It is no doubt within your recollection that you attempted to be very jocose and very sarcastic on the circumstances attending *one* election dinner, and it is now necessarily to be expected that your history of a more *recent* one will be equally *entertaining*. For really the public are quite disappointed, and their expectations altogether baulked, at the very "*meagre*" detail the *first printed account* of that *memorable* "entertainment" has afforded. Not one word as to the *number* of guests, or whether the *single* room that contained them was large or *small*, whether the company were *all freeholders* or *agents*, or friends in the interest of your "great Apollo," or whether many were not careless of, not a few hesitating, and some *absolutely inimical*, to the peculiar merits of that gentleman. In brief, a more imperfect and less interesting record of an event from which so much was expected, and so *little* fulfilled, it has been rarely our misfortune to peruse. It was indeed a voice, but nothing else. Notwithstanding, however, these endeavours to blind us from the truth, it must not be entirely omitted in the "Chronicles" of Wiltshire, that a gentleman *confessedly* a contemner of our Parliament and who considers it a degradation to represent a free county, was *selected* to preside at a public entertainment, *which originated* in the desire of *one candidate* to extinguish the *generosity of another*, though advertised under a specious disguise of *ill-concealed* subterfuge. *Supporting* this gentleman was seen, on the *one hand, a candidate* who solicits our support on every ground of *judgment* and *independence*, (but whose conduct on this occasion entitles him to neither,) and on the left hand seat one of our present members condescended to *identify* himself with the intentions, and the principles, and the success of the projector of the meeting. Common report and *general belief* have said *more*—they have spread rapidly and boldly the cry of coalition! they have given authorities and *gained proselytes*—hundreds have heard and believed,—and Mr. Methuen has come forward to refute the charges.—How satisfactorily, how successfully I leave others to believe; for myself it is enough to know that he acknowledges the folly of his conduct, and the justice of our suspicions.

Now these, Sir, are circumstances, and occurrences, quite "new" to our county, and sufficiently extraordinary and unexpected to challenge our attention.—And when we add to these, the *unusual* interference that obstructed a gentleman who was desirous of raising the character of the meeting by resolutions calculated to uphold the *real independence* of the

county.—That meeting forms a picture of so original a design, and of so characteristic an execution, that it will be difficult to persuade us it exhibits any thing that demands our approbation, or that it adds one beauty to the collection, with which we are tempted by the object of your admiration.

You conclude your last letter with often refuted charges against Mr. Wellesley. And although you have failed and will fail to convince us that it is no recommendation to one of our Candidates that he is nearly allied to a "particular family," and that he has "ample possessions," and honour and independence, and ability, and withal a desire to use these gifts for the benefit of our county, merely because one of his advertisements was not penned to your critical liking; and although you pertinaciously repeat charges about professional gentlemen, and magistrates, and landlords, and tenants, which you cannot prove, I suppose you will still continue to mould and remould your *antique* materials. At parting, however, receive in good-wise this one piece of friendly advice:—Talk as much as you please about heir looms, and territorial possessions, and Draycot House and its possessor's independent and happy tenantry, *for then* you will *exalt* those claims you wish to *annihilate*. But "breathe not a syllable "of *that entertainment* where the possessor of Pythouse "supported" the chair, and where a party "of freeholders and others" have lately been *carousing*," or you will infallibly quite *puff* to pieces the little chance of success which yet remains to that cause you hoped to have substantiated. I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

Neither HERE nor THERE. 1818.

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

P. S. Pray inform "*Titus Trueman*," that he is mistaken in supposing that I was at Mr. Wellesley's dinner. I hope my friend Titus will rise early and trot over the plain on the morning of the nomination, that I may have the pleasure of shaking him by the hand at Devizes, where we can discuss our principles and those of our favourite Candidates. He knows that it is not indolence, nor a want of inclination, that prevents my meeting him on the ground he has chosen.—His great objection to Mr. Methuen appears to be that he has *voted* on both sides—he wants *party* men, and of the government party. He will, I have no doubt, pay some regard to a venerable *Bishop's* opinion of such men, and therefore I will give him an extract from the life of the late Bishop of Llandaff:—

Page 106. "The best *partisans* are men of great talents

without principle, or men of no talents with principle of implicit attachment to particular men."—"To forget all benefits, and to conceal the remembrance of all injuries, are maxims by which political men lose their honour but make their fortunes."—Neither Castlereagh nor Canning is named.

Page 411.—"*Partisans* in Parliament, bigots in religion, tories in government—these are the men who thrive in all corrupted states, and by thriving accelerate the ruin of free constitutions."

The freeholders of Wiltshire want *honest* men, who will look only to the people's interest; not *party* men who never lose sight of their own. And it is highly to Mr. Methuen's honour that he has been found on both sides.

*Calne, May* 31, 1818. NATH. ATHERTON.

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## *To Titus Trueman.*

SIR,

HAVING derived amusement from many of your publications, and being anxious that your reputation should not be diminished, I am induced to be *very inquisitive*, and to ask many questions which I hope your deep erudition will enable you satisfactorily to answer. The first that naturally occurs is,—Why have you not fulfilled your promise of proving Mr. Fisher's assertions to be true relative to our aspiring Candidate? Surely he has not so bad an opinion of the freeholders of Wilts as to call them sharks,—to have told Mr. F. that they were not to be trusted even to value a few loads of hay, &c.—that, if *referred* to, they would not act honourably to an incoming tenant from a distant county?—But, Mr. Titus, what is this I hear relative to *another* discarded tenant of this esteemed landlord?—(They say, too, the fathers had been *bosom* friends.)—Did he let land to a Mr. Powell, at Norton? Did he, when he let the farm to this very respectable tenant, give him to understand, that it consisted of thirty acres more than was really the case? Did it turn out that these thirty acres had been *previously* let? Did not these sworn friends part inimically respecting *other* agricultural matters, and terminate their alliance by a law-suit favourable to the tenant? Was not *another* tenant, of respectable connections in North Wilts, turned out of the same estate at a very short notice, without any apparent just cause? There are also some *strange* reports respecting tythe payments, *one* of which applies to the above-mentioned parish. They say Mr. Benett's father, or he himself, procured the living for the present incumbent. But for that reason has he withheld the tythes for six or seven years? Has he forbidden his tenant to pay tythes when the divine can prove them to have been paid for more than a cen-

tury? Until his conduct has been, by you, cleared as a landlord, no Wiltshire yeoman can, with *credit*, give Mr. Benett a vote; and, until his *religious principles are better known*, and his usage of that clergyman in particular ably vindicated, it will be a *disgrace* to any *one* of that body to enrol his name on Mr. B.'s poll-book. I may very shortly be more.

INQUISITIVE.

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## *To Mr. Titus Trueman.*

SIR,

I LOOK for you as regularly on Thursday morning, as I do for my breakfast, and never enjoy it with so much relish as when I have you before me; and dinner would be much more pleasant in prospect, were I certain of seeing you at table. I have left my name at the printing-office, and, if you should take our town in your travels, you shall find an open door, and a numerous circle to give you a hearty welcome, to the best my house or the town can afford. But, as I should be sorry if any difference of opinion should arise between us, you will oblige me and your friends here very much, by answering the following question, *Do you mean, by the postscript in your letter to the freeholders last week, to inculcate an idea, that the religious tenets of a candidate for the representation of the county, is a subject with which the freeholders have no right to become acquainted, or to interfere?*—Your noticing this query in your next, would oblige your friends, and especially

Your obedient servant,

*Devizes, May* 29, 1818. A CONSTANT READER.

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## MR. BENETT'S DINNER AT MARLBOROUGH.

### *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

IN my last address, I took the freedom to direct your attention to an account of a dinner which the editors of the Salisbury Journal had inserted in their paper, and which they gave, as they had no doubt received it, from some one or other of "the (too) zealous friends of independence." In the true Devizes style, I certainly should not have "intruded" or "obtruded" myself again upon your notice upon this subject, as far as the mere circumstances of the meeting was concerned; the consideration of Mr. Benett's speech I pledged myself to, but something else has since transpired which again renders the account of that dinner party a matter of no small interest to you, especially as the period is fast approach-

ing when you will have to exercise the most important of all the rights you possess as the electors of this great county. I ought to premise, that I believe the "*historian*" did not actually see "what he records," for he did not arrive at the scene of action until the company had become motionless; and were only capable of recounting in the visions of the morning, the painful remembrance of "ecstatic" delights, departed never to return! To think that a host of agents, our sapient member, our *spiral* candidate, and even the chairman, worthy Fulwar's self, should have been so unmindful of their absent friend as to remove before his arrival, was too bad! much too bad! To be deprived of a bit and a drop, to find nothing but snoring inmates, and that too after a journey of twenty-seven miles, and during the season when the dewy exhalations of the morning enriched his auburn locks with their translucent drops, must have been "ecstatic joy!" His designs frustrated, his hopes disappointed—he notwithstanding possessed fortitude sufficient to engage in the duties of his jaunt; "he cull'd what sweets old Marlbro' *then* could yield;" and returned fraught with the rich intelligence, determined to strike dismay into the *real* friends of independence, by a display of what had been performed by "the *zealous* friends of independence," when met to celebrate the revival of its name, and the termination of its existence.

The excellence of history is its truth, and it must surely appear surprising to you, that the man who could so highly appreciate its value, when eulogising the labours of "the most celebrated historian of the age," should have discovered so little veneration for it, when, emulous to rival his patron, he took up the pen of the historian to record the auspicious events of the Duke's Arms dinner! Had he recorded those events—had he given you in detail, or even in outline, a faithful narration—himself and his performance might have rested together until the next meeting of the independents had called into *honourable* action those latent energies, which to this hour have failed to excite our wonder, or conciliate our esteem. You will recollect, gentlemen, that this Apollo of the Salisbury press, under the name of *The Old Moon-Raker*, felt himself called upon to remark on the report of a dinner at the Castle Inn among the friends of Mr. Wellesley. It was ushered to your notice by a few of those sneers to which his countenance by long training has become accustomed, and in the exuberance of his condescension, he was pleased to give an opinion, which his quondam friends were emulous to record: he pronounced it *meagre*, without probably considering that *he* too might be called on to give

an account, and thus furnish an opportunity to the public of judging of the excellence of his own. *Meagre* as this report was, it was *true*; the "records" are both before the public, and they will be able to decide between the historian of his Grace of Somerset's Arms, and the humble narration of the Castle Inn. It is impossible not to regret that the mutual good offices which have so long subsisted between "*the most celebrated historian of the age*" and his monthly eulogist, should not have been productive of more happy effects, on the score of improvement; than the meagre specimen of narration which I have now before me; but in the extreme of his modesty (attest his modesty, ye dewy retirements of St. Martin's, ye secret recesses of St. Thomas's!) he conceived it to be an act of too dreadful daring, to attempt at rivalling his patron in the sublimity of his style, although he comes up to him in the *genuineness* and *authenticity* of his narrative!

Gentlemen, I should not have thought it worth my while to have commented at all upon such a trumpery portion of what certainly is not "new in the chronicles of Wiltshire," but for the falsehood of its averments, and the baseness of its intention. What is asserted in his account of this dinner of "the zealous friends of independence," is done with the evident intention of deceiving you into a belief, that a most numerous and highly respectable assembly of freeholders at a public dinner, gave their sanction to the principles of independence as they are professed by Mr. Benett; and that in consequence of a mutual good understanding on this head, the day, or the evening rather, was spent in the utmost harmony. This, gentlemen, is the sum and substance of what this "historian" relates, and than which, nothing can be more false—it is a *lie* throughout, and a *lie*, told for the basest of all purposes—for the purpose of deceiving the men to whom he approaches with his bonnet in his hand, to solicit a favour; his present victims and his future scorn! But for this, gentlemen, this *precious* entertainment should have passed unnoticed by me, and permitted "to waste its sweetness" unmolested in the columns of the paper it adorns; till, like the fulsome adulation of its author in his monthly aspirations, it experienced the merited reward of flattery and falsehood, in its consignment to those temples, appropriated to the living, but to which the dead have no occasion to retire.

The motive of the writer is too evident to sanction doubt, and supersedes the necessity of conjecture. It was of consequence to the cause of "the zealous friends of independence" (by which you are to understand the men that have banished independence from the county, and who assembled on the present occasion to root out its memorial) it was a matter of the last importance to them, that you should believe Mr. Benett's

cause was more popular than Mr. Wellesley's, and especially in the north of Wilts. The *multitude* has an imposing sound, and if once such an impression as the one I have mentioned could have been produced upon the minds of the freeholders, its influence upon the backward, the doubtful, and the wavering, would have been looked forward to with the most hopeful sensations. Immediately therefore after Mr. Wellesley's friends had met and dined together, a dinner of Mr. Benett's friends was advertised under the specious name of "the friends of independence!" This was intended for a trial of strength—it was to shew which of the Candidates appeared the most popular—and from the contemptuous way in which the leader of the independents had expressed himself when reviewing the account of the former, it was expected that something marvellously grand in appearance, most imposing in point of respectability, and overwhelming in comparison of numbers, would be the leading and distinguishing features of this much talked of, and portentous assemblage of independents summoned to attend the Hampden of the West! He was a wise man who said "boast not thyself of to-morrow;" and the bragging days of the party were terminated by the feast. You are told by the "*historian*" that a "numerous" company assembled on the occasion. Than this, gentlemen, nothing can be more false. The company amounted but to *eighty-three! eighty-three* freeholders! Look at the thousands in your county.—*Numerous* indeed! To what will they next resort in order to deceive? They were far from numerous when compared with Mr. Wellesley's friends, and infinitely less so when compared with the great body of electors in the county. Perhaps he considered them numerous when compared with what he had a right to expect: this point I'll concede to him, *here* he is perfectly correct.

Now, gentlemen, this dinner was called by a respectable and popular magistrate; it was called for the purpose of shewing their respect to a gentleman who, we are told by his agents and bill-stickers, is a very popular Candidate, yet out of your large county, only eighty-three could be procured to attend, and a "*historian*" comes forward and tells you, that all these circumstances considered, the meeting at the Duke's Arms was "*a numerous and most respectable one.*"—Now what do you think of him? *Swindon* is nothing to this! What credit, think you, after this is to be attached to his moon-raking lucubrations? What think you of the man who can have the face to assert, before this intelligent county, that compared with the whole of the proprietors of its soil, eighty-three was a "*numerous*" proportion? But that the work of imposture might proceed with some certainty of success, the "*historian*" goes

on; "to enumerate (says he) the gentlemen who did honour to the day, would be to produce a long list of names." Why did he not produce it? He might soon have completed it? But he was too good a judge; the names would have been seen, they would have been counted, and we should much too soon for him have arrived at the number; or perhaps, gentlemen, he was fearful he should not have been able to travel home to *Swindon* and dispatch a courier time enough for the press! Probably the numbers would have been greater, but they were limited in compliment to the age of the *Moon-Raker!* His age, you know, gentlemen, is *eighty-two*, and shortly will be *eighty-three*, and the guests and Fulwar Craven made up the auspicious number! A *long list* was then converted into a short one, out of pure compliment to the venerable patriarch of *Swindon*. The list would not have been the length of his finger, when the *real* friends of independence left the room, and when the agents were subtracted, of whom there was a very sufficient number; you wonder with me how any man could be so wicked as to palm such an imposition on the country, or so weak, as to suppose that it would pass without observation or detection, when he is so apt to animadvert on the conduct of others without the slightest regard to truth or propriety? There is something in all this very much like the second childhood of fourscore and three.

Independent of their numbers, we are told, to give *éclat* to the festival, that the company were very *respectable*. If they were the freeholders of Wilts they could not be otherwise. But, gentlemen, we have seen that they were by no means respectable in point of numbers, and there is a little certain something which militates against the respectability in another point of view, notwithstanding the assertion of the "*historian*" and this admission of mine. It seems, "the zealous friends of independence" had a very respectable quarrel, nor could the presence of "the most active magistrate in the county," one of the worthy representatives for the county, nor Fulwar Craven, to whom Mr. Hallett offered the county, at all moderate the fury of their conflicting *zeal*. Persons seldom leave a society where they can stay with credit or comfort; and the speedy secession of the *real* friends of independence, from the company of the *zealous* friends of the god-like principle, affords you and I a pretty fair criterion by which to judge of the remnant that were preserved to Fulwar Craven and his two supporters. I have been informed, that there was a kind of entertainment took place, before they took a last farewell of each other, and which very much resembles what is known in Ireland by the name of a "*Concert after Mass*," and in which it is usual to take the stool, that but lately supported the *breech*,

to beat out the *brains!* So much for this number without "a list," and their respectability, of which I have given you a proof. It was a miserable muster. One of the *supporters*, my old acquaintance Paul, in one of the most silly advertisements that ever appeared in a newspaper, informs the freeholders, that it was a very unfortunate thing for him that he accepted the invitation; that though he did it, that he never meant to go; that it was by mere accident he found himself there; that he lost his appetite; that his faculties were quite overpowered when Mr. Benett sung, "*Will you come to the bower;*" and that he never suffered such horrors in his life, as when looking at John, and singing, in answer to his call,

> "Drink to me only with thine eyes,
> "And I will pledge with mine!!"

It cannot but be pleasing to you, gentlemen, however, to have observed the advertisement of Mr. Methuen, acknowledging the impropriety of his conduct; it is such a feeling as, I hope, he will cherish; it shews a respect for the opinions of his constituents, which I very much admire, and the more since I have been informed, that it was in deference to the opinion of a very *little* man amongst the *great* ones, and but the *ninth* part of a man by *profession* (yet a very sensible and judicious morsel of humanity), that Mr. Methuen published that advertisement. I say, gentlemen, that such conduct can never be sufficiently admired. This, gentlemen, I have said in justice to him; now there is something I have to say in justice to you, and that you will find a very unpleasant story. As I usually write with my window open, a bird flew in yesterday, and told me, that before Mr. Methuen left the city of Salisbury, he was either closetted with the accredited agent of Mr. Benett in that city for two hours, or else that he drove off to *Swindon*, and was engaged in a confabulation for the same time with "*The Old Moon-Raker!*" If the latter, he set out and returned in less than three hours, and the distance, they say, there and back, is near eighty miles. Now, it was impossible he could ever have done that, unless the *Moon-Raker* had supplied him with his pony! I, therefore, think we have a right to know from Mr. Methuen, whether he was in such a place, and in such a situation. This point cleared up, it will have a tendency to do away many unfavourable impressions from the minds of the freeholders; you have a right to know this from him, and he will, no doubt, inform you of it.

The next thing to which I shall call your attention, is to the concluding paragraph in the account of this unaccountable dinner. It is there said, "the utmost harmony prevailed, and the company separated at a late hour in the evening, well pleased with the entertainment of the day, but more highly

pleased with the honours that had been paid to the principle of the meeting." After what you have seen, that their "*harmony*" was quarrelling almost, if not altogether to blows;—after you have seen that they were so "well pleased with the entertainment of the day," that they separated in disgust, you will think with me, that a more scandalous attempt at deception never emanated from the press. When you find, however, that the cause of all this disturbance and wrangling was on account of "the honours which had been paid to the grand principle of the meeting," it must excite in your breasts a more than common degree of astonishment and horror, that men should be found so lost to every sense of propriety, as to tell you that the company separated "highly pleased with the honours paid to the grand principle of the meeting." It is, no doubt, *their* way of paying honour to principles, and also *their* method of expressing their gratification! A curious one truly, and, I hope, peculiar to the "zealous friends of independence."

When first I read the account, and found the resolutions had been moved by Mr. Atherton, and opposed, I freely confess that I was not much surprised at hearing they were rejected. It struck me, that there probably was a little "Palace-yard" *spice* in them; but since I have seen them, and found them to be rational, constitutional, the very things, that such things ought to be; I cannot for the soul of me conjecture what the "grand principle of the meeting" could be when they rejected them. They must have had some other object in view than the independence of the county, or there is a manifest difference between the independence of one man and another. Now, gentlemen, there is no event that has occurred since the business of canvassing began, of more importance to you than this dinner at the Duke's Arms. It lets you at once into the mystery which enveloped the "independence" of Mr. Benett and his friends, it places their views of your rights and privileges in the clearest and strongest light; and you must see that should that gentleman be successful in the contest, the county will be again reduced to the same state of vassalage, to which it has been subjected, ever since the period from whence the Moon-Raker dates his *first* lie, and from which Mr. Wellesley has interposed to ransom it. It is bootless of the old gentleman of *Swindon* in his letter of yesterday to inculcate a belief that the clubs have taken no part in the present contest; they have not as a *body*, not *publicly;* he possesses cunning enough to know that this would have spoiled the pudding; the county would have arisen as one man, they would have seen the trammels that were preparing for them, and sent the old ones at the heads of their oppressors. What they dared not attempt by force, they attempted to effect by fraud—by secret, sly, under-

hand methods, and then apologize for it, like W. W. Salmon of Devizes, by saying he did not canvass for Mr. Benett, he only went round the town with him, "and introduced him to some of his neighbours;" probably to convince them that he did not walk on all fours, or that he had a nose in his face, and was a little shorter than himself. These were the ways that the "zealous friends to the independence of the county" have interposed with their good offices, and which the resolutions of Mr. Atherton were intended to counteract. It is important, gentlemen, that you should read and ponder those resolutions, they will let you into the secret in a moment; you will then see the object of the friends of Mr. Benett, who, I am certain, would have fared better if he had thrown himself at once upon the great body of the freeholders, and trusted to them for an equal return of confidence, than to men who

> "Cheat the deluded people with a shew
> "Of liberty, which yet they ne'er must taste of!"

In a handbill that has been published, as well as in the county papers, you will see those excellent resolutions; they do honour to Mr. Atherton's head and heart. On them, and on Mr. Benett's speech I shall on some future occasion submit a few observations to you; at present I request you to come forward to support the man, whose principles are your own, whose independence of mind is more ample than his most ample fortune; but for whom you would not have had what deserved the *name* of a county election; who has restored to you your elective franchise, of which you had been for nearly half a century deprived, and to whom alone you can look up

> "To check the growth of these domestic *spoilers*,
> "Who make us *slaves*, and tell us 'tis our *charter!*"

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful friend,

TITUS TRUEMAN.

P.S. To the unknown but kind friend who left for me a work called, "*Corn Laws*" (published by Messrs. Brodie and Dowding, and containing the evidence of Mr. Benett on that important subject) I am greatly obliged. The world are much indebted to these two gentlemen for the publication; it shewed their patriotic views on that occasion, for though they were not at the expense of the publication, it surely was *something* to *allow* it to come from *their* press! It is whispered that they intend distributing a second edition gratis in order to facilitate the views of the *Moon-Raker!*

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

BEING the person alluded to as Mr. Benett's friend, in a paper lately published, signed "Vetus," I find myself im-

periously called upon to make some remarks on that publication.

After Mr. Atherton had made his speech and read the Resolutions he proposed, and they were seconded, he observed that if such propositions were to be made, it should have been done at some public meeting of the candidates and freeholders, and not at a partial meeting of the friends of one of the candidates only; and, however the advertisement calling that meeting was recorded, it was well understood by all who met, that it was intended for the friends of Mr. Benett; and no other person was present, except a few gentlemen Mr. Atherton brought with him from Calne; and Mr. Atherton at the foot of his address calls the company Mr. Benett's friends.

No such resolutions were proposed at the meeting of Mr. Wellesley and his friends, therefore why should Mr. Benett or Mr. Methuen, who were present at the meeting, be tied or bound down to observe any particular rules, whilst Mr. Wellesley, the other candidate, was at liberty to act as he pleased. The resolutions appeared very plausible; and had they been proposed in the first instance and strictly adhered to, they would have operated greatly in favour of Mr. Benett, as well as Mr. Methuen.

We all know that at the commencement of a contest for the representation of a county, the candidates solicit and obtain, when they can, the patronage and interest of peers and others who have estates or other property or influence in the county, who write to their agents or tenants, and desire them to vote and make use of their influence in favour of the candidate whose cause the peer or other person chooses to espouse; and we know *that the requests of some people amount to commands.* In this sort of interest Mr. Wellesley's chief strength lies; divest him of this, and he has not a leg to stand on; he had no personal knowledge of the freeholders, except his tenants and a few individuals he was acquainted with; therefore the doctrine contained in Mr. Atherton's resolutions would not suit *him* at all; and were never proposed to him; and if they were, he could not fulfil the terms of them, as he had been making use of the influence throughout the county, which was meant to be prevented by the resolutions: were the other candidates then to be entangled with these restrictions? Certainly not. Mr. Atherton, as a lawyer, must know, that unless all parties concerned join in a treaty, it becomes a *nudum pactum*, and is void.

Mr. Atherton left the company rather early; but, before he went, resumed the subject about the resolutions; and as they were rather complex, I wished to simplify them, and

make them more agreeable to all parties, if possible; but Mr. Atherton did not choose to hear me, but made use of the expression he has mentioned, "that the recantation of his friend was like the confession of a monk after committing sin,"—and left the room. I do not recollect that Mr. A. made any remark on the efficiency of Mr. Benett's political principles, but seemed well satisfied with what Mr. B. had declared in his speech, and promised Mr. B. to give him his vote.

After Mr. Atherton left the room, I proceeded to make some observations on what had passed, and proposed the following Resolutions:—

*That the Candidates and Freeholders there assembled, should use their utmost endeavours to support and preserve the Freedom and Independence of the County of Wilts.*

*That the Freeholders should attend at the ensuing Election, and give their votes, without putting the Candidates they polled for to any expense; and assist in taking up their neighbours, who cannot afford to go, at their own charges.*

These resolutions, I thought, comprehended every thing that was intended by the meeting; and, on being put, they met with the approbation of all present. I know not whether Mr. A. was aware of the aukward dilemma in which he placed Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett by his propositions. If they accepted them, they would have been precluded from an influence which the other candidate was at liberty to use: if they did not accept them, they were to be told they were hostile to the cause of independence.

I meant what I advanced as no recantation of the arguments I made use of; they are the principles I have acted on throughout the contest, which I can prove by documents and living witnesses. Mr. Atherton is acquainted with the secrets of my heart, with respect to public as well as private affairs, more intimately than any other man. I do not think he can say that I ever was an apostate to any cause I espoused, or wilfully committed any act which required recantation. Mr. A. in his speech said he saw no harm in contested elections; that they ought to happen often; and that if his own son should vote against him, he should not blame him; but mark the sequel—he could not bear for his friend to oppose his resolutions; so much for theory and practice.

I am very sorry any circumstance should happen to occasion this misunderstanding between Mr. A. and myself. I should not have made this appeal to the freeholders if he had not set the example.—In justice to Mr. B.'s cause and my own character, I could not avoid it. Mr. Atherton and myself have for many years been connected as partners and

friends, without having any dispute whatever. In private concerns we always agreed; in political matters we have not been always quite in unison; but I thought the variation so trifling, that it never would have produced any discord between us. I wish not to continue it, and am ready to refer the point in dispute to any impartial and competent judge, to decide whether, under all circumstances, Mr. A.'s resolutions should have been adopted.

*Chippenham, May* 28, 1818. R. H. GABY.

## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

THE freeholders of the county of Wilts, in the interest of Mr. Benett, intend dining at the Town-Hall in Devizes, on Friday, the 12th June next.—Dinner will be on the table at four o'clock; and gentlemen are requested to take tickets for the ordinary (which will be delivered at the bar of the Bear Inn) on or before Tuesday the 9th, at 10*s.* 6*d.* each.—The name of the chairman, and a list of stewards, will appear in the next paper.—*May* 30, 1818.

## WILTS ELECTION.

WE, the undersigned, have unanimously resolved to convey the voters of the Hundreds of Warminster and Heytesbury, in the interest of Mr. Benett, to the hustings at Wilton, free of expense to that gentleman:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| H. Biggs | J. G. Everett | J. Davis |
| J. Bayley | Wm. Hubberd | J. Davis, Jun. |
| M. Everett | P. Warren | G. Wansey |
| J. Slade | J. Raxworthy | C. Ingram |
| A. Patient | Rd. Rickword | Wm. Benett. |

## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

DON'T you be dash'd: you a'nt going to be abused this time man. I'm one as thinks *fair play's* a jewel all the world over; and so seeing as how you have got so many upon your back at once, I'll e'en stand up for thee, You can't have no better aid-de-camp, as the saying is, seeing as how I'm a *Hackney Coachman* of the true St. Giles's breed. You wants one of my sort to help you out; and being as how I've taken a drop too much of the good cretur, and got sickish or so, and come down for country air, on a bit of a visit to sister, a pretty milliner at Salisbury, (Salisbury was always famous for pretty women) why you and me shall be *neighbours*, if so be as you turns out a young rake, and not

an old dotard; and so I'm ready and willing to lend thee an helping hand. Do *you* find matter and I'll find *style*; give 'em but enough of my St. Giles's wit, and I'll warrant we comes off victorious: don't you fear but what I'll beat your Johnny-Raws. Perhaps you'll think my style *too genteel; that's* the pretty milliner's fault; she will have me write decent; but never you think but what I can be indecent enough, if you puts me to't. Lord bless thee, thy discourses wont do at all; too temperate by half; and what hast got by it? Answer me *that.* Hav'nt you brought a whole hornet's nest about thy ears? No notion of *fair play,* not they; not content to have all the *abuse* to themselves, but they must tread into ground, and be ready to sweep from the face of God's earth, any man as dares stand up in Benett's behalf; and stands to what they *knows* is false, as how he was the man who give the first blow, and becalled Wellesley *Irishman;* and so makes *that* an excuse to cover him with all kind of *slush,* a much genteeler word, sister says, than "dirt." And what if a *did* call t'other *Irishman,* where's the harm? I thinks he may be ashamed of being ashamed to own so good a country. Where should you and I, and he have been now, if Ireland had'nt gave us *Wellington,* God bless him! But the man as will deny his *country,* won't stick to do the like by his own father or mother, no, nor by those people who has helped him, if his occasions serve: that's my notion of things; but if he and his uses foul play to win the battle, so ought Mr. Benett; he'd be a damnation fool *now* to follow t'others example; when a gentleman is beat, and laughed at for his pains, 'tis but poor comfort to sit down, and thank God his conscience tells him he has done the thing as is right; conscience might have been a fine old gentleman, and well respected in the year 1772, you "old dotard," but it wont do a man much credit to be a croney of his in those days, more especially if he gets *the worst of it,* by sticking closer to him than needs is, you "young rake" you.

They have picked so many holes in Benett's coat, that hang me if I think there's a whole place left where they can find room to pick another; the man must be in downright rags; talking of *coats,* I met a *first cousin* of mine t'other day, poor John Fisher was always reckoned but a sour sort of a chap, in his *own* family; John, says I, why that's something *new,* that of Benett's about biting through both ears? Lord, says he, that's a lie of my own! But that *took well* about the *mixture,* says I, they still harp on upon *that. That's another,* says he, for *Pythouse* read *Somerville,* a colour every *snip* in Lunnun knows. Upon this, I says, Cousin John, hang me, but you beats us Lunnunners! With that he tells me how 'tis

*all fair* in electioneering!!—First and foremost Mr. Moon-Raker, we must discourse a bit upon what this here Jockey of *yours* is like; for first they says he's too fat, next he's too thin; one week "*he is a fat, a very fat man indeed,*" the next week he is a *skeleton* full of *marrow,* and again, 'twould be a "pity to take him from his native air, where he grows so *jolly* and *ruddy.*" Upon my soul I believe they're *all* Irishmen, seeing as a man cant't get at their meaning. As for Wellesley I've drove his honour many's the time, and oft, and a more likely looking gentleman never walked Bond-street; with his stays, and his parchment neckcloth, and his *castor* stuck to one side, and his shirt collar stuck out at corners, so as folks said he looked like a young pointer in a puzzle peg: then for Methuen, 'twould puzzle a conjurer I fancys to make out what he'd be at; to be sure he's one as gets worse and worse, first he *would* dine at Marlbro', then he would *not,* and rode clear and clean out of town; but then back he come, and fills his platter and his glass, and then *funks it,* and asks pardon of old Titus, and begs off a whipping this time; *but it come too late.*—How he got dress'd in time to dine there, or any where, is the wonder; seeming to me, must take him a good hour to *decide,* if so be, he'd best put his breeches on his head or his tail.——Lauk, brother! for goodness sake scratch out breeches, and put in *small cloaths;* and then for to go to talk about a M. P's *tail!* I'm certain sure Mrs. Simpson won't like to see such words in her husband's paper.——Sister, you knows nothing of the world, didst never hear tell of the rump parliament, and the broad bottom ministration, and didst never read in the *Courier,* about Bum Gordon, he as is trying to turn honest Tom Calley out of Cricklade? Should'nt wonder if you have spoilt my fortune already, making me write too gentell. When this here girl opened her potatoe trap upon me, I was going to say as how I *know* 'twas a *hoax,* bespeaking them horses, and shays, and inns, seeing as how I've a *friend at court* too, somewhere about the Hay market, as tells me how all the folks in Lunnun was laughing in their sleeves at the Wiltshire Johnny-Raws getting jockied at that rate by Wellesley, as was know'd to be *done up* clear and clean; not a fraction of *the ready* will the oafs ever see of *his.* So they seems to me but a poorish set altogether. Benett to be sure wont have no call to give *cabinet dinners,* and as he wont have to lug out *the ready* for bringing up *his* votes, he'll stand pretty much where he stood before, save and except a few clean hundreds to his agents, and the like o'them, so with this I takes off my castor, and makes my bow, and if so be, as I turns out the Wenus de Medecis, sprung to life for the occasion, instead of honest Jarvey, that's nothing to

nobody, and so come on my old boy; I'll throw *sluth* to the tune of their *dirt* I'll be bound, so now then, 'tis who shall? My Old Heart, and Titus Trueman, against my old Moon-Raker, and

TOBY TOSSPOT.

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*To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

I HAVE read with considerable attention the correspondence which has passed in your paper between Mr. Benett of Pythouse, and his late tenant, Mr. Fisher of Allcannings; and I trust you will allow me, as an impartial and independent observer, to state the conclusions to which I have arrived, after a careful and unbiassed view of the whole subject, and the inferences which in my opinion are fairly deducible from the facts disclosed. "*Alterem alterius auxilio eget*," should ever be the motto of the independent observer, and I trust I shall not forget it in the present instance.

It is certainly advisable that a veil should be drawn over the private transactions of life—that the affairs of the farm—the warehouse,—and the desk, should not be laid open to the inspection of the public eye; and that a confidence, grounded on the mutual engagements subsisting between man and man, should not be impaired by hasty disclosures and unnecessary obtrusions upon public attention. I would be the last man to undraw the curtain of the sanctuary in these particulars on a trivial occasion, and the first to reprobate so unnecessary and unwise an appeal to the public. I have been led to make these remarks from having good reason to believe, that a feeling of the above description has induced some most respectable characters to attach some degree of blame to Mr. Fisher in the present instance; but I think none can fairly attach to him; as it was the conduct of the partisans of his late landlord which compelled him to make that appeal to the men of Wilts, which I have no doubt will lead to that honourable decision, which good old English plain dealing and plain speaking has hitherto, and I trust will always induce an honest and independent yeomanry to pronounce. I repeat it, Mr. Fisher was compelled to stand forward by the friends, or rather enemies, of Mr. Benett; he obeyed the call, and has succeeded in vindicating his honour and in establishing his pecuniary credit.—What! was it to be borne that the friends of a landholder were to represent to a county that his late tenant owed him 5000*l.* or 3000*l.* at the very time that he had settled his account, and had a *receipt in full* in his pocket? Who would have

chosen to have let Mr. Fisher a farm in case he had been so deeply indebted to his late landlord?—It was enough to fire any man's soul to be represented as owing one farthing to a landlord under such circumstances. Having thus premised, let us direct our attention to the more prominent parts of the discussion which has taken place.

It is certainly extremely easy to make an assertion, and to prefer an accusation; and no person ought to attach much weight to any assertion that may be made, or to any accusation that may be preferred, in case it appears that the proofs to substantiate the one are not easily to be furnished, and the evidence necessary to repel the other is difficult to be adduced. This I lay down as a general rule, but it certainly is incapable of application in the present case: Mr. Fisher has stated no fact but what he openly challenges Mr. Benett to disprove, and has preferred no accusation but what Mr. Benett might easily repel in case it were untrue: and now let us examine a little into these matters. With respect to the charges made by Mr. Benett as to Mr. Fisher's living in splendour, what does Mr. Fisher say? Does he not challenge a personal inspection? Does he not throw down a gauntlet which Mr. Benett does not choose to take up? Does he not specify what were the actual additions made, and the purpose for which they were made, and if these representations were incorrect, could not Mr. Benett with the greatest facility disprove them? Has he not in his own possession the evidence that is alone capable of settling these? Perhaps Mr. Benett did not consider these facts "*material*" enough to be noticed; possibly he was (like the Ex-emperor of France) in want of the argumentative "*materiel*," and so wisely forebore to fire a shot which he knew he could not lodge within the lines of his antagonist.—Mr. Fisher tells us he was a stranger when he came into Wiltshire—was totally ignorant as to the mode of cultivating land there—and consequently threw himself upon the consideration and honour of Mr. B. who in return for so generous and flattering a compliment, gave him some very kind advice as to keeping out of the way of certain ravenous creatures which infested the quarter into which he was coming to settle. This (if true) was very kind, but very laughable; because, at the very time that Mr. B. was cautioning his fresh water fish not to approach too near the Wiltshire "*moon-rakers*," lest, as a "*stranger*," he should be "*taken in*"—he (Mr. B.) was President of the Piscatory Agrarians, whom he is now so anxious to represent in another quarter! But, with respect to the above point, it may perhaps be said, that it is supported by the bare assertion of Mr. F. and that therefore no very

great degree of weight ought to be attached to it, especially as it is met on the other hand by the positive denial of Mr. Benett. This being the case, it becomes necessary according to the laws of evidence, to consider which of the two contending parties has the best memory. From what has passed, it evidently appears, that with whatever gifts Mr. Benett may be blessed, a good memory is not within the number; he could not recollect a man who had rented nearly two thousand acres of him, only two years since; it was *a* Mr. Fisher—he could not speak positively as to the man—he was a poor, simple Leicestershire stranger, whom he accommodated out of compassion with the land, and to whom he dispensed his advice gratis on account of his defective intellects; I think, gentlemen, this is a most striking proof of Mr. Benett's defective recollection, and leaves us in no doubt as to whose statment we should treat with the greatest attention, especially as Mr. Fisher, in his last letter, has stated his readiness to *prove* that Mr. Bennet did make use of the expressions which he states him to have done. From this, I gather, that Mr. Benett used them in the hearing of third parties whose recollections are not so deficient as his own appears to be; it will therefore be much better were Mr. Benett not to speak so positively on the point, lest Mr. Fisher's written statement should be corroborated by *oral* testimony, *and by testimony which cannot be disputed.*

And now, gentlemen, passing over a number of minor considerations, let us come to the audit day—the famous audit day holden at Deptford Inn, on the 1st April, 1817; and in recurring to this singular meeting, we must pay our respects to Mr. Chitty, who may, for ought I know, be a very respectable man, and against whose character I have nothing to allege. It appears that at this meeting, all accounts between Mr. Benett and Mr. Fisher were settled, and that Mr. Fisher took *his last dose of the Pythouse mixture! hinc illæ lachrymæ!* —There seems to have been considerable discussion at this meeting, and Mr. Benett's attorney appears to have entertained some very different ideas on the subject to what Mr. Fisher did. But how did the matter end? Why (if we may give credit to Mr. Fisher's statement) by Mr. Benett's giving Mr. Fisher a *receipt in full of all demands!*—And now for a word or two on Mr. Chitty's letter?—Mr. Fisher has evidently driven Mr. Benett out of the field, as to writing; you see he is compelled to employ an amanuensis—and for what?—Why, to answer the plain unvarnished story of *a* John Fisher of Allcannings! Oh! tell it not in Wilts, and let not the sound reach Westminster-hall, that an *attorney* was obliged to be resorted to, to answer the statement of a *farmer*—of a

*stranger*—of one—(if we may be allowed to form an opinion from Mr. Benett's present definition of him)—not worthy to tread the same soil, or breathe the same air with his landlord, *except upon a rent day, or when providing a good dinner for a shooting party!*—But to return; Mr. Chitty sets out with telling us, that on the 19th of December, 1816, he (as Mr. Benett's attorney) made a very civil application to Mr. Fisher, "not for any *particular sum, but for such a sum on account, as* "*Mr. Fisher could then pay;*" most unquestionably the landlord could not receive more than the tenant had to pay with, and therefore the great credit which Mr. Chitty claims for Mr. Benett in this instance, amounts just to nothing: but Mr. Chitty says, this was a civil request; mighty civil truly! when Mr. Fisher tells us it was accompanied with a threat of arrest in case of non-compliance! But what did the tenant do upon this occasion? why, what every prudent man would have done; he set about making up his Dr. and Cr. accounts, taking credit for the expenses of making those improvements which were to be for the permanent benefit of his landlord, and of which he, (Mr. Fisher) was to be deprived at the Lady-day ensuing. He sent this account in to Mr. Chitty; it appears to be really incorrect as to the amount of some property-tax or land-tax, but substantially correct as to every other particular; it is however objected to by Mr. Chitty, and here matters rest until the 1st April, 1817, when the meeting at Deptford Inn took place. And here it is evident that the "illiterate," "vulgar," and "contemptible" tenant had completely the whip-hand of his landlord and his attorney; for how does the matter end?—Why, Mr. Benett gives Mr. Fisher a *receipt in full*, in despite of "*disputed items*," "*water meadow extortions*," and "*splendid repairs!*" Every reasonable man would suppose that after such a document had been given as the stamp receipt, nothing further would have been heard of "*disputed items*;" but no, Mr. Chitty recurs to the subject in a most extraordinary way? he says, "Mr. Fisher "intimates that he has still a claim on Mr. Benett for grass "seeds and fixtures, but that such claim, if admitted, cannot "be equal to that which, in justice, Mr. Benett has on Mr. "Fisher, for the disputed items which he has taken credit for "in the accounts." I am really at a loss to know what Mr. Chitty means by these "*disputed items*;" did not Mr. Benett's receipt in full put an end to all disputes? Did not Mr. Benett legally and virtually acknowledge that the accounts (as stated by Mr. Fisher at the Deptford Inn) were correct, by signing that receipt? Really, gentlemen, Mr. Chitty's doctrine of set off is quite new to me; I will be bound he learnt it at Pythouse, not at Shaftesbury. Mr. Benett found

that unless he threw what he chooses to call these "*disputed items*" into the opposite scale to that which contained *grass seeds and fixtures*, the tables would turn upon him, and he would be weighed in the balance and found wanting! I have no doubt Mr. Chitty gave him good advice, and told him that he could not talk about "*disputed items*" after having given a *receipt in full*, but that in reality, he discovered that as a *dernier resort*, unless he "*raked*" these items from their legal place of repose, he would have no chance with the *Fisher*-man, who has so completely enclosed the worthy president of the *Wiltshire Piscatory Agrarian Society* in his net!

Before I close my letter, allow me to say a word or two upon Mr. Benett's "codicil" to his will as drawn by Mr. Chitty; this little production is in the hand-writing of the testator, and purports to contain the last legacy which he intends bequeathing to the Wiltshire freeholders on the present subject. Mr. Benett complains, that "Mr. Fisher has evaded the most material points on the subject under discussion;"—and pray what are these most material points?—Why, "whether Mr. Fisher got or lost money on his farm, and whether he did not turn him out of its possession!" "*Credat Judæus apella*!" What, are the feudal times to be restored? Are tenants to be transformed into vilains of the soil? Are seats to become castles, and their owners barons, instead of country gentlemen? Are landlords to become inquisitors as to the profits of their tenants? I do not wonder at Mr. Benett recurring in some measure to feudal times, when writing on this subject; he, no doubt, had got the parliamentary tenure of "*Knight service*" in his head: a capon—a horse—a spur, were very pretty things when presented kneeling to a feudal Baron, and *common of Piscary*, throughout such a county as Wilts, where fish may be met with in such abundance, would be no despicable addition to the establishment of a knight! But I hope and trust the freeholders of Wilts will enfranchise themselves, and tell their county in the face of its sheriff and his court, that they hold their lands in free, honourable, and common socage, and will defend their property with their lives, and their freedom with their voices!—But to return; in candour, we must perhaps allow, that Mr. Benett, when he called upon Mr. Fisher for a statement of his profits, was led away by a momentary paroxysm of electioneering indiscretion, and that he would not, in a serious moment have pursued the inquiry. I would not misconstrue any man's intentions, or fail to make allowances for what may be said in haste; but taking this matter either way—supposing Mr. Benett called for this exposure of profits in earnest; and for the purpose of shewing that

Mr. Fisher had not a disadvantageous lease,—what then? If Mr. Fisher's lease had been a profitable one to him, (and which Mr. Benett plainly insinuates) what credit could there be due to Mr. Benett for allowing him to throw it up? On the contrary, if it were an unprofitable one, we need not wonder at Mr. Fisher throwing it up when it was an express understanding with his landlord, and when that landlord publicly gave it in evidence before the House of Lords, that he had given his tenants notice that they were at liberty to surrender their leases, that he should be at liberty to do so. There is no credit due to Mr. Benett either way; but it is plain he considered the lease a profitable one to the tenant, and therefore very kindly gave him leave to throw himself out of one of "the best and cheapest farms in Wiltshire," to make room for "another and a better tenant."

And now, gentlemen, I shall lay down my pen; I have no hostile feeling towards Mr. Benett; I have no connection directly or indirectly with either him or his late tenant, or with either of his rival Candidates. I have written from the impression made on my mind by the facts admitted on both sides. I have always understood Mr. Benett to be a gentleman and a man of shrewd observation, and I was in or near the House of Lords when he proved himself so; but seeing no occasion for the contemptuous manner in which he has treated his late tenant, I have ventured, as an independent observer, thus publicly to intrude myself on the attention of your readers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

BRITANNICUS.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

WORSE and worse! never beheld a tamer story put together, in the old place, too, piping hot from *Swindon*. "*How far can you travel in an hour?*" said old Macgregor to the ghost.—"To Mexico and back," said he! "*Aha*," cried the old Scot, turning up the whites of his eyes, "*that's quick indeed!*" Now "*My old heart*," were you but half as stout (you'll do well enough for beauty) as your friend John Benett, you might pass very well for a relative of the ghost. I think you have got a leaf out of his book; I know you have the same "*propensities*." You are seen in churchyards—busy amongst the tombs—hiding in corners—moving in *sheets*, much to the incumbrance of unprotected females. You never march out before it is dark; are very fond of *flying* by night, and always vanish before morning! Are you ever molested in your nocturnal excursions? You travel with

some expedition; probably you are acquainted with "the prince of the power of the air," and he gives you a lift. So you have been to *Swindon* again, dear *Swindon*—stick to that for "the honour of your true Wiltshire family." Ha! ha! there again and back! And without ever moving from your fire-side? you really are a wonderful *old man!* You never meet with accidents on your travelling; never upset—blown into the water—against a tree—suffocated by chimney smoke—make no mistakes when you arrive—never knock at the wrong door—nor embrace an old man of seventy for a Dewy delight of thirteen! You make no mistakes *abroad;* what a pity you are not so fortunate at *home*! Your beauty, your form, your surprising parts, all unite to give you the ascendant!! Were you but half as lucky at your pen, woe betide the scribblers that celebrate your praise. Where should I be? You have been pretty fortunate this last time—you have given *one,* and almost two of them a bloody nose; it may do them good; they will be more guarded next time; they possess more strength than you, are better *bottom,* but you have had more practice; they will beat you in time; their quarrel's just—*that* you know is better than a shield and buckler. I shall leave them for the present to *your* mercy; and, from motives of the purest humanity, shall take *you* to my own. You will be very comfortable; I shall use you well, now that you are penitent, and at all events shall treat you with as much courtesy as you have treated Mr. Wellesley; or, to use your own phrase, "with gentleness of remark!"

In my last letter to you, I accused, and proved you guilty of publishing a falsehood, with respect to the way in which the name of Captain Goddard had been introduced at the dinner of Mr. Wellesley's friends. In the very paper in which you read your own elegant communication, you might have perused what falsified your statement. Besides, you had an opportunity of seeing it before it went to press, an opportunity which you are on all occasions extremely happy to improve. You are therefore convicted of giving publicity to a *lie,* of being yourself the author of it, and of making the paper, above which you hover like a black cloud in the horizon, the medium of its circulation. I looked in your last letter, but there was "neither explanation nor apology." It is enough for such a great man as you are to *utter;* it is the business of the freeholders to *believe,* let the tale be ever so preposterous or incredible. It would be an act of too great condescension in you to notice beings so far removed from the distinguished sphere in which you are accustomed to move, and a sacrifice too great, to yield even a moment's

gratification, to the trouble of satisfying the doubts of those, whom your deceit has ensnared, and whom your falsehood would secure. This (no doubt) is a portion of that *pride* with which you regard your "*true Wiltshire family*," which pride, for the sake of that family, for the sake of common honour, and common honesty, for the sake of yourself, I hope and trust will lead you to rescind your resolution, and blush that ever you had said respecting it, this: "I shall carry with me to the grave." There are many things that I know you will have to carry with you to the grave besides *that*; get rid of it, you will be an *ounce* or *two* lighter, for it is not only hiding it with you in the grave, you will also have the trouble of carrying it thither; and a long journey will convert an ounce into a ton. You are no man of Wilts; for, attend to your description of them:—"If they should be dishonoured by any thing, they will I know be unceasingly restless till they have wiped away the stain;" and, to use your own bombastic style, "it is on record in the Chronicles of Wiltshire," that you have been "*notoriously*" guilty of a most dishonourable action, the inventing and propagating of a falsehood, and which though accused of it, and proved guilty, it remains "without explanation or apology." If this is the "one quality they have, which is essential to manliness of character," if "they never cordially attach themselves to any person who does not resemble them by possessing it," I trust they will soon banish *you* from their society; for, to use your own words again, you have not "the candour with which any one of them would acknowledge an injury;" for you do not acknowledge it at all! If any thing more, however, were needed to render you more abhorrent in the eyes of those to whom your letter is indirectly addressed, it is the *motive* with which it is done. "The smell of a dead enemy" will never be "sweet" in my nostrils, but it is pleasing to use the arms of a vanquished one to counteract his designs. This is my privilege at present, and therefore I must again refer you to your own words. Your charge against Mr. Wellesley was not "an injury accidentally inflicted on another,"—it was a wilful and malicious act done against conviction, and therefore without excuse; it was base, for it was done for the purpose of deception; and malignant, for it attempted to cast a stain of reproach on that man, from whom truth had recently, but most completely wiped it away. I have looked in vain to you for that "liberal contrition which would endeavour to atone for it, almost preventing accusation, effectually depriving it of its sharpness," and that you would instantly upon the discovery, have made „ an appeal to our well known liberality to pardon, and forget

an instance" of such deliberate and aggravated depravity. But no; to principles, to parties, to circumstances, you can bend, you can be accommodating; with a happy facility you can become "all things to all men;" here only where it was your duty to be so, in justice to the man you had injured, you refuse to make atonement; I have known you bend on a less worthy occasion. You care not by what means you accomplish your end, so that you but attain it; in *your* "moral scale" the end justifies the mean, whatever be its nature or character. "Had such an apology been made, we should probably have forgotten the offence," you might have again stood on the pedestal, "inch high the ground above," which you had formerly occupied; as it is, you are reduced to a station from which your talents can never raise you, you have got into a dilemma from which all your artifice will not secure an escape. You stand self condemned; it is from your own words that I judge you; but you wrote them when at *Swindon*, and your understanding has become clouded by the smoke and the society of a city, by the bustle of the morning's lounge, or by the solitary search after the treasurers of the night!

I accused you of *meanness*, in truckling to a set of men who had ignominiously black-balled your bosom friends; I accused you of baseness in attempting to raise a party by surreptitious means, against the man whose generous confidence should have been a passport to your best affections; but, "like marl on good ground, it only encumbered what it could not fertilize," and *you* made haste to remove the load, and in a way not the most honourable to yourself, but the reverse of it. Of these things you stand accused in the eyes of the freeholders, they are too contemptible to deserve your notice, you may tell them what you please, and it is their duty to receive it on no other evidence, than the *I say* of the man of *Swindon*. Mighty well! What will this world come to!

In your last letter you have been so far just to its contents as to say nothing about its *arguments*. It is curious, however, to see you remark in its commencement that you "deem it base to impeach characters under the cloak of a fictitious name." This is worth something coming from you; you will recover your judgment at last: every letter you write contains a reflection on the preceding one, and the sentence I have quoted, a censure on the whole of them! Your whole business since you began the profession of a writer, has been to impeach the character of Mr. Wellesley, "under the cloak of a fictitious name." I know not that any person ever called your talents or your learning in question. I have often lamented the prostitution you made of both, since you adopt-

ed the title of The Moon-Raker; and as for the correctness of your judgment, it will be best appreciated by your preferring a Candidate without an independent fortune, or with a fortune very much involved; a man against whom oppression has been charged as a landlord, and whose attachment to the religion of his country, or indeed to any religion, is now most loudly called in question, to one against whom none of these charges exist. As to the integrity of your heart! Alas! I wish you had said nothing about *hearts*. I could tell you something, but I wont,—I'll forbear at present; I will "abstain from allusion" to what would fully establish the "integrity of *your* heart. As a writer, you commenced in falsehood, you have reduced deception to a system, and have the hardihood to tell us it is no crime; and by persevering in it, would seem to demand our sanction; but that too I suppose is the proof of the integrity of *such* a heart as yours! With reference to the discovery of your name, and which you would have us believe is still involved in mystery, nothing can be more false; it is known, you know it is, we "*have not got a wrong scent*:" your name ornaments our walls; and it was truly laughable to see your man Friday (supposed to be your *moon-raking* coadjutor) on Sunday, with his mop and his pail, endeavouring to wash off what he took for *chalk*, but which really was *encrusted paint*. His discernment is something like his master's! You have mistaken *chalk* for *paint* ever since the commencement of your epistolary career; you have attempted to "wash out" Mr. Wellesley from the hearts of the freeholders; you thought him *chalk* but he has proved to be *paint*, and all your endeavours have only tended to remove that portion of dust which yourself, in conjunction with some equally deserving fellow labourers, had attempted to obscure his reputation. Your arguments we have never seen, and your assertions are, unfortunately for you, now of no avail. Independent of the falsehood of which I have convicted you, and which remains without "explanation or apolgy." You informed the freeholders that you were eighty years of age, that you was present at the "glorious struggle in 1772;" that your "old heart" grew warm at the remembrance of it; that you celebrated the anniversary of it, and all this took place at *Swindon;* here ends the climax of falsehood and deception; every word of this is a *lie*, and so are your charges against the character of Mr. Wellesley, (or I should rather say your *insinuations;* you have not the *manhood* to come forward with a direct charge); and equally entitled to credit, are your eulogies on the character of Mr. Benett, whom you would have the freeholders believe is a person of great *intellectual endowments*, elicited, I suppose, by his letter to Fisher;

of *moral qualities*, by his reverence, I suppose, for the word of God, which is at once the reason and the rule of morality; of *independent fortune*, proved no doubt by the *parchments* which he possesses as *mortgager* or *mortgagee!* What an insult to common sense to tell the freeholders of Wilts (who I hope enjoy the faculty of judging) that Mr. Benett is a man of large independent fortune, when he himself tells you that he is so poor he cannot live, and that he must quit his "*local interests*," throw away his "*local knowledge*," take a last view of the *sharks* of his *native* county, and make France the home of *his adoption*. Is a man that but three short years ago was in such a state, and whose fortunes through the great increase of "lark leases" have not been mending; I would ask any man of common sense, if such a man can in the very nature of things be a fit representative of the county of Wilts? I know that you, Mr. Moon-Raker, will say yes! You care not who represents the county so you can serve your turn! For this you can be old or young, live at *Salisbury* or *Swindon*. If any thing however can shew your disregard of truth and decency, to say nothing of your contempt for the freeholders, it is your still affixing Swindon to your letters, now that you, yourself, independent of every other circumstance, have admitted that that is not the place of your residence.—It establishes, however, one grand truth, namely, that whatever you have said, however false or erroneous, you will persist to maintain, in the face of detection, of conviction to the contrary! This furnishes an admirable rule by which the insulted freeholders of this county may judge what degree of confidence is to be placed in what you have said against Mr. Wellesley, or in favour of Mr. Benett; your very dwelling place is founded in falsehood, need we be surprised that it should prove "*a refuge of lies?*"

It is certainly kind of you to address all your letters to the *Printers* of the Salisbury Journal; the *Editor* would not do so well, it looks so foolish for a man to write to himself! They will be men of information by and bye! Your correspondence must add wonderfully to their stock of knowledge! considering too that they put it all into the "Savings Bank," for they never send you a *reply!* I am astonished you have never called them to account for such rude treatment. Does it not appear strange that you have never so much as had a "this comes hopping that you are well, as it leaves us at this present writing, &c." They could not be afraid that you would grumble at the postage, for *your* correspondence passes free of that. But the loss is made up to you otherwise; you have not to complain of me on *that* score.

MY OLD HEART.

## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

As the day when, by your independent votes, you are to elect your representatives, more nearly approaches, I feel more confident in the hope of being honoured by your choice. I already exult in the approval of my pretensions, expressed by so many freeholders in every district, and have no doubt that your exertions will speedily ensure our common triumph, which can only be derived from the true principles of independence.

Some, who are unfavourable to my success, have invented and circulated a report, calculated to impair my interests and your good opinion of me, that I do not intend to avail myself of your suffrages at the poll. Should my opponent persevere in the contest, my exertions will be unremitting till a decided majority of votes expressed in my favour shall record the opinion which you entertain of me, and declare me to be the object of your election.—Believe me, Gentlemen, ever to remain

Your most obliged and devoted servant,

*Pythouse, June* 6, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

To anonymous publications I will never descend to give an answer. The impropriety of a professional agent of Mr. Benett, or of any other candidate assigning the interest upon which he says I stand, which has been done in the letter published by Mr. Gaby, must be too apparent to require from me any comment: I never have boasted of that which I have not fully acted up to. I have not preserved a copy of my letter I wrote to Mr. Atherton, when I first perused the resolutions proposed by that gentleman, (who has not promised me his support,) and which I wrote several days previous to my seeing Mr. Gaby's publication, which has but this moment come into my hands; but I know that in that letter, I not only gave my unequivocal assent to Mr. Atherton's resolutions, but I conveyed to that gentleman my determination to propose those resolutions myself, whenever I might have an opportunity, which is a practical proof that the doctrine contained in them would suit me, though I positively declare they were never proposed to me, and equally declare I can fulfil the terms of them.

Judge, Electors, who are the persons whose requests are imperative commands, by the perusal of the following letter from an humble freeholder, addressed to a respectable agent of mine, Mr. Timbrell:—

"*May* 31, 1818.

"Sir,—I am sorry to inform you that I am under the

cessity of altering my vote from Wellesley to Benett, as Mr. J. G. Everett has told me that if I did not give my vote to Benett, that he will turn me out of my employ, which is my whole support, and to give my voice to Benett."—"It is much against me to do it, and if I can get employ elsewhere I will not run from my word, but it's what I must do.

From me, your faithful servant,

THOS. PIK."

Is it true that this gentleman, Mr. Everett, is a member of the Deptford Inn club? Is it true that he is a subscriber in order to defray the expenses of Mr. Benett's election? I am told it is!

The old story of having endeavoured to use Treasury influence is once more brought against me. I declare upon the word and honour of a man that I never have, directly or indirectly, endeavoured to use either Government or Treasury influence, as may be seen by the following quotation from a letter written by me for the perusal of a cabinet minister, and which must place beyond the possibility of a doubt my independence.

"I think it neither consistent with the conduct I have pursued for six years I have been in Parliament, nor with that which would be becoming of a county member, to *bind* myself to *belong* in politics to any man."

This letter was written in consequence of an offer of extensive support, tendered to me by a person of very considerable influence in the country, connected with his Majesty's government. I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

*Warminster, June* 1, 1818. WM. LONG WELLESLEY.

P.S.—I shall be obliged to Mr. Atherton to cause the insertion of my letter to him above alluded to.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

WE might have hoped that the contest for Wiltshire, in which the Candidates are two gentlemen known and respected in the county, and another of high birth, professing an intention hereafter to reside within its limits, would have proceeded without any violation of that decorum, to which, even in the deadly conflict, an honourable mind will scrupulously adhere.

I am not intimidated by any who imagines that the aspersions cast on my supposed name and character (now becoming tiresome from daily repetition), will vindicate the pretensions of one Candidate, or divert the freeholders at large from the preference which they shew towards another. Not even the

harmless merriment of my other correspondents, or the ineffectual fire which they prepare for my destruction, will induce me to abandon that cause which rests on honour and independence, or to join in the servile adulation of superior wealth. Fearing neither the knife of the midnight assassin, nor the wretch who would direct the populace against a supposed rival, by lampooning his name in the public streets of Salisbury, nor the more malevolent enmity of the anonymous libeller, whenever I find occasion I shall use my best judgment to vindicate that honour and independence, and to rescue the freeholders of Wiltshire from the degradation into which they inevitably fall, if they err in the decision of the depending contest.

I deem it right to declare, that no Candidate is responsible for any sentiment which I express, or any observation which I make on the events happening in our county. My fortune, though not considerable, and much more the temper of my mind, place me very far above the condition of a hireling writer. Whether rational or not, I express not a word which is not dictated by pure and unbiassed judgment.

But undoubtedly a just opinion may be formed of a Candidate from the general tenor of those writings which are published in his behalf, and from the nature and description of those persons who advocate his cause. If there be a writer in his service, who cannot be supposed, by the most credulous, to labour in his vocation without reward, if that writer (who actually proffered his services to the opposing Candidate), having little reputation to sustain, shews no regard to the common feelings of mankind, but introduces into his various publications matters not relating to any Candidate, but tending to vilify other persons, hitherto respectable and unimpeached; if that writer is known to have been the coadjutor of Mr. Hunt in those dangerous projects which seemed to threaten the peace and welfare of society; if his shapeless mass of slanderous invective is printed at the expense of the Candidate who may be supposed to employ him, is posted in every town, and widely distributed through the county, then it behoves every honest man to consider, whether such are the legitimate means of supporting any honourable cause. The highest dignity cannot remain untarnished in such association. The independence of the county can never be combined with pretensions which are permitted to rest upon the assistance of such an advocate.

It is for the independent freeholders to judge, whether the matters, from time to time imputed in my letters to Mr. Wellesley, by direct assertion, and not by sly insinuation, are yet refuted by any one. I am, indeed, a stranger to "the illuminating brilliancy of his talents, and to his other *commanding* qualifications." He may be "the gentleman, the soldier,

and the senator," as his friends assert. "Every qualification necessary to form that character may exist in every act and deed of Mr. Long Wellesley." I am sure that six months ago no true friend of that gentleman would have thought it becoming to bring his real merits into question by adulation like that, for

"Praise undeserved is censure in disguise."

He may, indeed, be endued with all the courtesies of polished life; he may have fought many battles, and have achieved many victories in his country's cause. He may have been an useful and judicious legislator, but the history of his country, both foreign and domestic, is silent upon all these points. Nevertheless, I once more assert, in language direct, and not by sly insinuation, that the representation of Wiltshire ought not to be the appendage of any house or family whatever, and that it was solicited by that gentleman, as "*ambitious to restore it to the house of Draycot*;" that he is not by birth a Wiltshire gentleman, nor connected by blood with any Wiltshire family; that he enjoys at most an interest for life in the property of his lady; that the representation of the county ought not to be among the advantages of his matrimonial alliance; that the hereditary property of his opponent is as adequate to the station which he aspires to as any member for the county could boast of in the recollection of the oldest among us; that if Mr. Salmon is worthy of credit, Mr. Wellesley and one of his agents *did assert* that he had the support of Government, which he certainly *never had*; that Mr. Salmon, being uninfluenced by that assertion, Mr. Wellesley *did apply* on the subject to Mr. Arbuthnot, but without success, and did attempt *to intimidate* that gentleman by a false statement of the law, in a quotation from Blackstone's Commentaries; that he has vilified the magistrates of the county, and made unproved accusations against the particular friends and professional agents of his opponent; that the attack made upon Mr. Benett's private character, and other calumnious publications, reflecting on that gentleman and his friends, by whomsoever written, have been circulated in the various newspapers of this and the adjoining counties, and by various other means, at an expense which no private person, for any private purpose, would sustain. Till the contrary is stated by authority, may we not believe that these publications were at the expense of Mr. Wellesley? Can we believe that the advertisements of his tenants were all "voluntary and unexpected," and not at his expense? As to the dinner at Marlborough, it was a festivity at which but few freeholders were present, and which independent freeholders would never condescend to attend, at the expense of any Candidate; but let every freeholder, ungoverned

by scurrility, deliberately form his judgment upon the occasion of that dinner, and the sentiments expressed at it, and upon all the various incidents which mark this strange contention; and then let him vote conscientiously. No friend to our independence can express any other wish; if that wish be gratified, the triumph of the election is secure.

I remain, Gentlemen, your constant reader,

*Swindon, June 5,* 1818. THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

P.S.—I hope, Mr. Editor, I shall have little occasion to trouble you again. I have asserted nothing hitherto which has been or can be disproved. Calumny and abuse are not the weapons with which I have combated, nor will I resist them when directed against me. My fictitious name, and assumed age and residence, are not worthy of serious comment. Let my enemies triumph that my name may not be *Moon-Raker*, that I may not be in my dotage, and that my residence is elsewhere than at Swindon. If the public transactions of the county should justify it, I will again request your attention: but I shall not vindicate *myself* against slander or falsehood in the columns of a newspaper, nor obtrude myself on the public, through the medium of your journal, unless occasion should require it.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wiltshire.*

BROTHER FREEHOLDERS,

HAVING been absent from England some time, I find myself called upon immediately on my return to exercise my discretion with regard to the disposition of my vote for your county, in which I was born, in which I was bred, and whose interests I shall cherish as long as I live. The advertisements of both your Candidates have been put into my hands, and all I know of the contest is from these and the overcharged comments made by the partisans of the rival factions.

One tells me that till within these six years Mr. Long Wellesley was entirely unconnected with the county, that even since this time, the period of his adoption as he calls it, he has never lived a week within its precincts; that he has utterly estranged himself from all intercourse with you, and spurned the arms that are extended to receive him. This has been asserted by his enemies, I look in vain for its contradiction by his friends.

With regard to his advertisement, he says in it that he will not allude to the public transactions entrusted to his care; if he is the same Mr. Wellesley Pole who I remember at Constantinople (my long absence prevents my speaking positively) his forbearance is most prudent; for though I cast not a shade

of imputation on him as a man of humanity, all the world knows that the public business was so ill managed during the short period it was entrusted to his care, that he was superseded as soon as possible, and has never been employed since.

His next assertion is that he comes forward as a country gentleman (not as a Wiltshire country gentleman surely, for he has not a drop of Wiltshire blood in his veins), and I am at a loss to conceive how a residence at a villa in the immediate environs of London in a style of luxury and dissipation wholly incompatible with any thing like habits of business, can give him any right to the style and title which he here assumes: but "he is not heir to a seat in the upper house;" he is however heir presumptive to an Irish earldom,—he must in the course of moral probability become Earl of Mornington, if he is son of Mr. Wellesley Pole. "He is no place-man," but his father holds a lucrative one, and I have yet to learn that he has ever refused any; this is a boast which every man without talent or interest might venture to make without fear of contradiction: then as to his independence, he will, I suppose, be as independent as the son of a cabinet minister can be. He denies using Treasury influence; but will Mr. L. W. unequivocally assert that he never directly or indirectly applied for it to Mr. Arbuthnot? One thing I happen to know—that ministers are most provokingly indifferent as to his success.

Of Mr. Benett I hear—that he has always lived in the county, an active magistrate and an independent country gentleman; unattached to any party, yet consistent in his principles; a proud boast if it be true: that he assisted Mr. Methuen to destroy the preponderating influence of certain oligarchical clubs that had been established among you; that he is the man who by a happy combination of talent and daring, at a county meeting at Devizes, exiled that turbulent fellow Hunt from your confines; this is the story of his friends.

I am a stranger in my native county, and wish to be set right in these particulars, as my desire is to give the unbiassed and unprejudiced vote of

A CONSCIENTIOUS FREEHOLDER.

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*To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

You will perceive that the Clothier is a very choleric gentleman—quite a *crab*! He cares not *who* represents the county; he is only anxious to gratify a malignant temper, which he constantly betrays by "spitting venom" at his "betters." I lament that he should not have read my former address to you with more attention; or that, having read it

with attention, he should not have given me credit for being *personally unknown* to the Candidates for the representation of the county: for then he might have been spared the disgrace, and, I may add, too, the painful reflection (if he is an honest man) of having made an almost personal attack on one of Mr. Benett's professional agents, who had as little to do with my letter as our worthy vicar; and in a way that does but little credit to his head, and none to his heart:—

> "He did, as folks are apt to do,
> "Who reason in the dark and in confusion;
> "That is," whilst nodding o'er his pipe, "he drew—
> "A false conclusion."

I abhor the idea of wantonly wounding the feelings of innocent persons, by calling names, and "spitting venom" at them, under an assumed character; it is *unchristian-like*, ungentlemanly, and unmanly. Mine was (upon the honour of a Wiltshire man) a random squib; and yet, somehow, I think I hit this Clothier on a sore place; perhaps three Latin words would explain the cause of all the ill humour he has shewn on this occasion; his son will translate them to him: —*figulus odit figulum.*

But, gentlemen, to the point. *I am* no scribbler of parchments—no Marplot "in the secrets of the Quorum;" I am an independent man, who attempted to discharge his duty to his neighbours—to uphold the freedom and independence of the county. The Clothier professes the same honourable intention, and I do not wish to doubt his integrity; but I object to the means by which he is endeavouring to accomplish his object.

The plain question before us is, whether we shall elect our Parliament men from amongst our own gentry, or whether we shall suffer a *stranger*, a person from the *Devil's Arse a Peak*, who happens to have a *Long purse*, to step forward and fill that situation. Brother freeholders, we are n o so "sleek headed" as to be amused by such trash as the stories of the "Tub" and the "Cornish Borough." I trust we have too much common sense and independence left amongst us to hesitate for one moment in our choice. We must *now* return Benett;—and a Wiltshire man for ever!

*Trowbridge, June* 4, 1818. A SCRIBBLER.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR correspondent, "The Old Moon-Raker," in his second luminous epistle, preferred two charges against me.

It was impossible that they could be true, which I proved at the time. In his next letter he offered no explanation of his error; but objected to an expression which I had used, and thought fit to insinuate, that I was affected by "the contemplation of Mr. Long Wellesley's redundant wealth;" this was a liberal return for my courtesy. He has now been pleased to revert to that same expression.

I am always ready to explain or defend whatever I may have said or written. In private life I bear neither hatred nor enmity towards any man; and it would be well if every one concerned in this election had resorted no more to private scandal than I have done. Public conduct is open to public inspection, to animadversion, and reproof.

I cannot see much to admire in clubs of any description: but political clubs are detestable. Even when instituted for laudable purposes, they are usually found to subvert in the end the very principles for which they were established.—The clubs named by your correspondent, are composed of respectable individuals; with some of whom I am acquainted, and I know them to be estimable: but private worth cannot change the nature of public conduct. Combinations of even the most estimable persons, when entered into for the purpose of usurping political power, form, in my opinion, a species of petty tyranny, which ought to be strenuously resisted. Whether Mr. Benett has been an advocate for those clubs I know not; but time and chance have thrown him within their vortex, and into the hands of their chief supporters.

If Mr. L. Wellesley had not offered himself for the county, we should have had no choice; we *must* have taken Mr. Benett; and the appointment of county members would have reverted to the old channel. For this opportunity of re-asserting our freedom, we are indebted to Mr. Wellesley.

That Mr. Benett is a very respectable man, I should be one of the last persons in the county to dispute. That he is particularly adapted to be a county member, I must be permitted to doubt; and I say from my own knowledge, that some of his leading advocates have, not long since, expressed similar doubts, in much louder and stronger terms than I have done.

So much has been said and insinuated against Mr. L. Wellesley, that his friends have felt themselves bound *to defend* him—*not to set him up for an idol*, as his opponents insinuate. They ask for him common courtesy only; if they cannot obtain it, they must continue to expose devices of his enemies. The "Old Moon-Raker" has imputed to Mr. L. Wellesley's remarks on the subject of local interests, and to his wish for making this the "county of his adoption;" a meaning which

he must know that gentleman never contemplated:—this is a paltry trick, unworthy "the good sense, the erudition, the taste, the liberality, or the honour," of so candid an opponent.

The representative of a county in Parliament ought to be in the possession of such a property as will allow him to be strictly independent; any thing beyond this, would with me be no recommendation; nor am I overpowered by "the contemplation of Mr. L. Wellesley's redundant wealth." I do not feel flattered by the attentions of any man who is canvassing for a seat in Parliament; nor am I to be duped by smooth words, by shakings of the hand, or salutations in the market-place; I know their value, and estimate them accordingly. From all that I have seen of Mr. L. Wellesley, I believe he has too much sincerity to treat any man with consideration for an hour or two, whilst he finds him useful, and afterwards with *marked contempt;* but on this point I shall not put his sincerity to the test.—Unequal friendships are seldom productive of good. When the election is over, Mr. Wellesley will return to Draycot or Wanstead, and I to my original obscurity.

> "Give me again my hollow tree,
> A crust of bread and liberty."

I am not seeking for a place; if I were, he has not the power to obtain it for me. He might, perhaps, have influence to get me made an Exciseman; but for that I am not qualified; so that I have no hopes of preferment: nor shall I gain any thing by the contest, but the possible advantage of having a good dinner for five shillings.

Your correspondent, I am informed, is a professional gentleman, an agent for Mr. Benett; I dare say, now, that he will contrive to get something by this business, besides a few good dinners, for attending at which he will most probably be paid:

> "Light is the dance, and doubly sweet the lays,
> When for the dear delight another pays."

After it is all over, I should like to have a peep at his bill. When his fortunate employer has it presented to him, he will be ready to cry out with Mungo—"Adod it's a tumper!"

I bear no ill-will towards your correspondent; but shall be happy to meet him in good humour on the day of election. Meanwhile, let me advise him to be busy; or, in spite of all boastings, he will find himself behind.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, A NATIVE.

*I thank your reverend correspondent, C. L. for his courteous and liberal notice; he has the last word, and is happy—I am content.*

## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

ALLOW a farmer, who knows he possesses but a plain and common understanding, to offer you a few observations upon the pretensions of those gentlemen who now offer themselves as candidates to represent the county of Wilts in Parliament.

I have investigated the public conduct of these gentlemen in a strict but most impartial manner; and I doubt not but I shall now prove to you, most satisfactorily, that Mr. Benett is far more worthy of your choice than either of his rivals. This I will prove by incontrovertible facts.

In the first place, Mr. Benett is a distinguished member of a society which has been long established for the purpose of promoting the improvement of the agriculture, arts, manufactures, and commerce of the country: and from this society, which consists almost entirely of scientific men, whose talents reflect honour on the age we live in, has Mr. Benett repeatedly received honorary rewards. He is also, as you know, President of the Agricultural Society of this county. A man who thus possesses, in so high a degree, the estimation of such societies, would surely be a valuable acquisition to the House of Commons. It has been strongly objected to Mr. Benett that he wrote in recommendation of the Corn Bill; but let it be recollected that when that bill was passed, in March 1815, wheat sold as low as between 30*s*. and 40*s*. per quarter; and 44*s*. was the highest price returned in some of the markets in this county. Is it not apparent then, that, if during these prices, a protecting law had not been passed, prohibiting the importation of foreign corn, certain ruin must have ensued to nearly every farmer in the country: the ultimate consequences to the consumer of corn I will not attempt to describe. Mr. Benett, you well know, is not simply a theoretical or experimental agriculturist; he is himself an extensive practical farmer; and no better proof can be adduced that he is a most judicious one, than that the improvements in agriculture exhibited on his estates are edopted by all who see them, as are also his excellent methods of feeding and improving live farming stock of every description. In times of peace, like the present, did Mr. Benett possess no other knowledge than this, I would maintain that he is a most fit man to be returned to Parliament; but, gentlemen, his knowledge is not confined to agriculture; this is amply proved by his controversy on the subject of tythes with the Rev. Archdeacon Coxe. I beg to recommend to your perusal the pamphlets written by these gentlemen, as you will there find that, in the contest with his eminent literary antagonist, Mr. Benett has acquitted himself in a manner highly creditable

to his own literary talents, and has displayed a fund of knowledge on subjects of political economy in general, that is rarely acquired by any one man. There are many other points in Mr. Benett's character, which I will not at present touch upon, but which strongly recommend him to your choice. I will now proceed to examine the public conduct of his rivals.

Mr. Methuen rests his claim to re-election on the ground of his parliamentary conduct, and begs that his pretensions may be judged solely by that conduct. Nothing, certainly, can be more fair than this appeal. But, gentlemen, I fear, if we look into Mr. Methuen's parliamentary conduct, we shall perceive a wavering and a hesitation, if not a downright inconsistency. The honest intention, however, of his wish and disposition, I cannot, and do not, call in question; and I shall ever respect him for his votes as a guardian of the public purse. In all questions relating to the reduction of taxes, or the reduction of the public expenditure, we have ever found Mr. M. evincing a proper feeling for the distresses of his country.

Mr. Wellesley, gentlemen, also refers you to his parliamentary conduct; but he principally rests his claim to your votes, on the ground that his wife's relations have formerly been representatives of this county. I will only ask, can any claim be more weak; I was going to say absurd! It certainly merits not a moment's notice. If Mr. Wellesley possesses any of the essential qualifications for a member of Parliament, it remains to be known; for he never speaks in Parliament. I am ready to allow that a man may possess sound sense and judgment, and be in many ways qualified for a senator, though not gifted with oratorical talents; but Mr. W. can speak, and if we take the amended report of his speech at Marlborough (which appeared in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal of the 18th ult.) as a specimen of his eloquence, I think we must commend his prudence in keeping silent in St. Stephen's chapel.—In that speech, gentlemen, he assuredly displayed spirit, and he has conducted his present contest throughout with a daring boldness, which few men but himself would have had the rashness to exhibit. You of course know, gentlemen, that I allude particularly to that vilification of the magistracy of this county, to which he affixed his signature, and the publication of which he pertinaciously repeated. If Mr. Wellesley is a man of sound judgment, I think you will agree with me that it remains to be known.—I will now say but little more of Mr. W. You know that he strongly professes *independence*; but you know also, gentlemen, that he represents the *notorious* borough of

St. Ives, his seat for which if he vacates, you know that it will be filled by some *menial* of ministry, and that another vote will thereby be added to those monstrous majorities which so profusely squander the public money *. That Mr. Wellesley's father, and one of his uncles, are *notoriously* under the influence of the present ministry I hold to be indisputable; for in the parliamentary reports it will be seen that on the 5th and on the 13th ult. these gentlemen were charged in the House of Commons with corrupt practices, and the charges remained undenied. It should also be remembered, gentlemen, that Mr. Wellesley, the present candidate, was one of those members who voted for the Corn Bill.

*June* 4, 1818. A. B.

* This gentleman may be independent; but it will seen by the "Extraordinary Red Book," that his father, the Right Hon. W. W. Pole, receives, as Master of the Mint, 10,350*l.* per annum; and that Marquis Wellesley, and the Right Hon. W. W. Pole, as Chief Remembrancer in Ireland, receive 4,201*l.* per annum.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

Ah! Now this looks well! You had the Gazette on Friday morning—You carried it to *Swindon*, ha! ha! and then sent the printers your communication by the Saturday morning's mail. Didn't you find *Swindon* a little out of the way, in coming from London to Salisbury; or did you send it by the coach, stay behind yourself, and merely introduce *Swindon* for the "*true honour of your Wiltshire family?*" I have some hopes of you now; you are growing ashamed of your name; you are getting into the family of the *alias's;* the Old Moon-Raker, alias Barley Corn, alias Toby Tosspott! It does not signify now what your name is; you can carry on the work of deception no longer under it; nor does it signify to you (it never did to *us*) what your "birth, parentage, or education" is, so long as you've "*a friend at court!*" make good use of *him*, (you have very few friends *out* of court) it's what you have been trying for all your days; and probably it is owing to that, that you have now become so courtly. You've got to the *court-end*, I see! the *Hay*-market's just the place for you; you've got from the *nursery* to the *hot-house;* there's almost as many *there*, as *you* and the *little one* have made in Salisbury, the *Robin Hood* and *Little John* of the forest! *He* is a natty little fellow—*you* are *quite a beauty!* Your symmetry, *divine*, your proportions *terrible!* I see you cannot leave your "*propensities*" behind you! It has *one* good belonging to it,—the *Lambs* of the *city* enjoy a little respite!

But how came you to choose such *out of the way* names? "*Barley corn!*" I thought you were more attached to the

*grape!* But it suits your cause!—Benett prefers barley—not for *himself*, but for the *mechanic* as well as the *labourer!* Hear him; "*the manufacturing classes live better than the labouring classes; but they need not live better! they lived formerly on barley, now they* (the extravagant rogues) *live upon wheat, and eat fewer potatoes!*" What a shame! the people of England don't eat so much pig's meat as formerly! This Mr. Benett was enabled to state from "*local-knowledge!*" They are beginning to live like christians, and Benett says there's no *necessity* for it, *they need not live better* than pigs; such was his evidence before the House of Lords!—And he went all the way to London to tell them so! He went all the way to London to persuade the House of Lords to bind them down to the old regimen; I am happy to hear that the printers of the Salisbury Journal, are going to distribute an edition of that work (the Corn Laws) *gratis;* every body will be thankful to them for it, and for this, as well as other things we are indebted to your being in London! Don't come back to *Swindon*, there's nobody wants you there, you're a *speck* wherever you appear, a *disease* wherever you remain. How can you be the agent of a man who would feed beings (of whom you have something of the form) on *pig's* meat? How can you ask a vote for him, without expecting the freeholders will kick your *latter-end?* If I were you, I would stick to *surcharging*, for then you would only be *cursed*, but now you are *hated.*

And then your other name Toby Tosspott, how improper! you are not in the place of Toby, but of Tobias's dog; you have to bark for your master. And as for Tosspott, I never heard that you were fond of the pot; I knew that you were a good trencher man, and a pretty good hand at the glass,

"When for the dear delights *another pays!*"

But as for the *pot*, 'tis too vulgar by half: 'twould for ever contaminate those coral lips, devoted to softer purposes, and more "*ecstatic joys!*" As for the *tossing* part of your name, that is not so much amiss; it will refresh your memory with regard to past events, particularly what took place on that evening when you were nearly *tossed* into Giant-street canal! But it served you right; eleven o'clock was an untimely hour. Old Hecate had *Bowled* to bed; she did right to bolt you out; besides your "*Wenus de Medecis*" was engaged; how should *you* like to be disturbed? Your rival was a brutish fellow to knock you down; his *fist* hit harder than your *knuckles;* tapping so gently too, and whispering so softly, "Mary, Mary!"—'twas enough to melt a heart of stone. What a way you must have been in; determined to go *in*, and she resolved to keep you *out!* I pity you, I hope you'll keep better hours, and better company. But I fear you won't; you

tell us, that you have commenced coachman, and are becoming pretty proficient in the language of the profession. I know you were always attached to the *Dickey*, I hope you will always ride easy; and if you *hold tight*, you cannot be *tossed off*.

You are a *wonderful* fellow. You can travel faster than Coul's Ghost, and assume more forms than Proteus ever pretended to. You are a kind of human camelion, and change yourself into the colour of every thing you touch. But the most astonishing thing of all is, that you should think yourself handsome, learned or wise, and that you should remain so stupid as to persuade us, you are unknown when you have so often made the discovery! Like the carp you hide your *head* in the mud, and on that account imagine that your body has also become invisible.

You are a very *lucky* fellow; but this comes of being an Editor! Every thing you write can be inserted in "the Chronicles of Wiltshire" *free of charge*, every body else must pay. Your's go in as simple *letters*, (*simple* enough) other people's as *advertisements*, and *numbered* like the poor of some parishes; *your's* go free of the disgrace. Not that these are always numbered in the same place; by way of a blind they are sometimes numbered in the middle, others at the end, *your's* no where. It seems that you really "have a friend at court."—'Twould be a folly to charge *you*, you find them in writing and spelling, they find you in paper and printing. "One good turn deserves another," you supply *calves head*, they find *saucepan;* the numbering story has got wind, and they clapped one to your last.—Don't you think a coachman's place is very unsuitable for your years. You have lived to the advanced age of eighty-two, and now in your eighty-third year; don't you think the inside of a hearse would suit you better than the outside of a coach? But it was in contemplation of the election that you resumed the whip! It will cost you some trouble to bring up Benett's voters from Malmesbury; he has a great many there, he has the vote and interest of the—*town-crier!* I'd practise every day if I were you, 'twill get your hand in; then you'll be better able to throw your Candidate *out*.

I have read your letter over again and again, to see if you had apologised for the falsehood of which I had convicted you. No mention is made of it; no notice taken of it. You may recollect the time when you told something of the same sort in the Council-house, 'twas at the last election; how you looked when compelled to read your recantation! Don't you think the freeholders of Wilts deserve as much courtesy as the corporation of Salisbury? What a method this was of securing the return of Mr. Wyndham! How his honourable mind must

shrink at the baseness of such an agent, and of the means resorted to! What a reflection it casts upon *his* honour; hear your own words, "But undoubtedly, a just opinion may be formed of a candidate from the general tenor of those writings (the *letter* that you said you had in your pocket) and from the nature and description of the persons who advocate his cause." And how truly you add, "The highest dignity cannot remain untarnished in such association; the independence of the county (or city) can never be combined with pretensions which are permitted to rest upon the assistance of such an advocate." What a home hit is this for yourself; you are very unfortunate in your *play*, ten times more so in your *conjecture*. You insinuate that you have discovered *me;* I don't care if you had, but you have got "*a wrong scent;*" you never was more out in your life; I know to whom you refer—do you think that nobody can write but him? The county is come to a pretty pass indeed! why, man alive, he is not a *native*, and has been but a short time a *resident*, what can he know of *you?* "*I know you well!* you are pretty sure I do. You throw your dart at him, because you know he has not the means, or perhaps the inclination to return it; if he *had*, woe betide you!—Why the dog days are come too soon upon us; you have run mad, and bite the first you run against, and he the wrong one. I heard him say that he would go to Hawker's in Catherine-street, and buy a whip for you; how it must please the old gentleman to hear that you are become *rich* and can brag of your *fortune!* and you really think that the individual to whom you refer is a *writer* in Mr. Wellesley's *service*. I pity your old nob. I can tell you that he is not; my situation enables me to speak with certainty on that subject. I dare say he would be very glad to be employed; you know "*he actually proffered his services to the other candidate;*" I heard that he did to all the *three*, you're not half in the secret; that shewed he wished to have a finger in the pye; you surely did not wish to have all the good things yourself. Why don't you speak for him now; he is not *hired*, I can tell you; and by consulting Mr. Wellesley's agent, whom *you very well know*, you will find that he never in his life directly or indirectly received a penny from him; and you know that his circumstances are such that he "*cannot be supposed by the most credulous to labour in his vocations without reward;*" I hope he'll think of *you*, and reward your attention, he *can* do it. As to his reputation, I believe he would not exchange reputations with you, much as you may think of yourself; the grey hairs of an aged father have not been brought by him with sorrow to the grave, through the seduction of an infant daughter; nor have the feelings of an affectionate brother been

roused to resentment by the ruin and abandonment of a beloved sister! *Reputation*, "respectable and unimpeached;" blush for yourself should you be the man; but you cannot blush; you have the daring audacity to call the notice which myself and others have taken of your conduct, a showing "no regard to the common feelings of mankind." Good God! and are these the *common* feelings of mankind? Of some men they may be, of some men they *are*, but when they become the "common feelings of mankind," the race must be near extinction.

I have ever understood that Mr. Cobbett was the coadjutor of Mr. Hunt, "in those dangerous projects which seemed to threaten the peace and welfare of society;" such as assembling at a meeting called by the high sheriff of the county to petition against the Corn Bill, and which petition you yourself said you had done every thing to forward to the House. Another project was a meeting where Mr. Hunt and his coadjutor appeared, and that was at one called by the high sheriff to petition against the Income Tax. At both of these meetings you were present in your official capacity, and if you beheld any thing like "a dangerous project," then was the time to have brought it forward, when the king's representative was present to aid you with his authority. But no, there was nothing of the kind; the only illegal thing that I beheld there was yourself, for you were there exercising an office in direct opposition to the law. You have no right to complain of *vilifying characters*, of *posting bills;* who began it? not Mr. Wellesley, nor yet his friends. Your own precious stuff was handed about the county, and your friends elsewhere were underhand distributing their pamphlets against Mr. Wellesley's character. It is bootless to complain, no one pities you, for you are the cause of all the hard words that have been spoken: your pen was to run riot, and no one must attempt reply. Now that you have set the house on fire, you are preparing to start by the light of the flames; but this shall not be allowed; I will not suffer you to retire; you may depend upon it that you *shall* "trouble the Editors again," and whether you come as an Old Moon-Raker, as Toby Tosspott, as Barleycorn, or as A. B. I'll meet you, I'll beat you, I'll make you ashamed. Besides, it is cruel of you to think of withdrawing just as you are beginning to pay for advertisements, for I see your last letter is numbered, consequently paid for, or *to be* paid for. 'Tis ungenerous to leave friends who have accommodated you so long with their paper, besides the *private* view of all communications, names of the writers, and all circumstances. The way in which the letter written by Dr. Thomas was served, should be enough to deter any person from sending communi-

cations to a paper, whose proprietors are guilty of such a wanton breach of confidence.

How truly ridiculous to hear you complain of Mr. Wellesley having handbills printed: has Mr. Benett had none? Is it any disgrace to Mr. W. that he has had them printed, or has paid for them without the aid of a *penny* subscription? Have not the other Candidates done the same? Shall that be considered criminal in him, which is thought to be meritorious in them? Your talking of "deadly conflict" is certainly laughable; of "knives" and "assassins" too. One would almost imagine that whenever you seize your pen, you are ready to exclaim with Macbeth, "Is it a dagger that I see before me?" You speak of your "*destruction*," as if some one really reckoned it desirable: Of what use would your carcase be to the world? A dead horse would be more advantageous. How absurd to make use of such language. Who but yourself ever made use of the phrase? Whoever even hinted at such a thing? It is like the whole of your conduct in this business?—there is nothing fair belonging to you

I am sorry that you have betrayed so much ill temper: you should have had a little more philosophy, especially as you gave the assault, which you know warrants *battery*. When you speak of *hireling* writers, look at yourself: you are one,—I am not. I never received a favour in my life from one of the Candidates and I defy any man to prove the contrary. I am above the acceptance of a bribe, and though not so *rich* as yourself, I am more independent. You will never know who I am; you may guess, you may conjecture, but no longer accuse the innocent; this is not much "to the honour of your true Wiltshire family." Your postscript is truly pitable; do let us hear from you again; don't lay down your pen just as you are beginning to write better; always be grateful to the man that was the cause of it, and *that* you know is me.

MY OLD HEART.

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WILTSHIRE, TO WIT.

I, ALEXANDER POWELL, Esq. sheriff of the county aforesaid, having received His Majesty's writ, under the great seal of Great Britain, for the election of two knights to serve for this county in the Parliament to be holden at the city of Westminster, on the 4th day of August next, do, in obedience to the said writ, and of the several statutes in that case made and provided, hereby proclaim and give public notice, that, at a special county court, which will be holden at Wilton, in and for the said county, on Wednesday, the 24th day of this in-

stant, June, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the statute in that case made and provided, I shall proceed to such election, when and where all persons interested therein will be heard, and are to give their attendance accordingly.

ALEXANDER POWELL, Sheriff.

*Dated this 12th day of June*, 1818.

## *To the Friends of Independence.*

WANTED immediately a gentleman fully qualified to act as *Chairman* at an Election Dinner. The respectable personage who was advertised to fill that situation, having, by general report, *denied ever promising to accept it*, and it is greatly to be feared he will not condescend to alter his determination; by which exposure the manager or managers of such dinner are placed in a highly "*notorious*" situation, and are compelled to take this public method of remedying *their folly*. They venture therefore humbly to request some good natured friend will patriotically step forward to extricate them from the dust their boldness has kicked up.

N. B. It is *above all* recommended to the fortunate applicant that he come fully provided with a "*prepared*" speech, well seasoned with expressions of "independence," "the Magistracy," "Treasury influence," "*local* abilities," *native* talent, landlords and tenants, Pythouse and "*unbiassed suffrages.*"

An *early* application is most *particularly requested*, at the office of ———, esq.; and none need apply who is not fully provided with sound lungs and the gift of the gab.

*St. A—s s—t, Wednesday night, June* 10, 1818.

## *To Mr. Toby Tosspot.*

KIND SIR,

I THINKS you a sweet spoken gentleman as has the gift of the gab famously, and though I can't be so double faced as to say I likes you *better* than my breakfast, yet you gives it a relish must be owned; and as for old Titus, 'tis all over with he, seeing he've worn his subject as threadbare as John Fisher's coat, and keeps potter, potter on, so as there's no such thing as keeping one's eyes open over his rigmarole palaver; I've left my name at the Checquers, if so be as you should not find me in the stocks, where I commonly sits two hours every evening; and when you comes our way, you shall be sure of a belly-full, and be kept in clover up to your eyes, that's to say, if the host of company we always keeps don't eat it all up before you comes; but as I should be sorry to come to fisty cuffs, you must first answer me this here, why, *when you discoursed upon*

*Wellesly, didn't you tell us why and wherefore his good family changed the name so often; what kind of a chap old Wesley the dad were, and what sort of a character old Colley the grandad bore, when he were a musick master in Dublin?* Wasn't there one Wesley as were a *Methodist parson?* and who knows but what this youngster may be a chip o' the old block, and upset all the parsons, and take away their tythes? Out of the frying-pan into the fire this, hey! Benett would be the best of the two at that rate! So you was best tell the freeholders 'twould be a burning shame, rape, fire, and murder, to put their names in Wellesly's, alias Wesly's, alias Colley's poll-book, till such time as this here point is cleared up. I am, dear Mr. Tosspot, more than *a body would suppose,*

*Yours,* TOBIAS.

P. S. I havn't time or I'd write 'tother letter to myself, and sign it *Curiosity*, as I wants to know why, if W. were no Irishman, he began his bother by cracking off about being nephew to Wellington. I do suppose he turned 'tother way, 'cause the noble duke, as all the world know, won't own him as his nephew, being he's so ashamed of him.

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

As other people address all their letters to Editors, copying such high example, I shall do the same. There's one thing I don't mean to copy them in, and that is, telling *lies*. You have seen an account of a dinner which is advertised to take place on next Friday, at Devizes, amongst Mr. Benett's friends. I dare say you wondered why the names of the stewards were not inserted with the first notice of it; but, no, this could not be done; the gentry fought shy, and at last, after canvassing the county, they find enough to make up the list. Did it not surprise you to see the honourable name of Wadham Wyndham, Esq. at the head of the fragments of the clubs? I can assure you it did me. The Moon-Raker can't leave his dirty tricks alone; and he put Mr. Wyndham's name there without his knowledge, and against his will. You may rely upon it, Mr. Editor, that Mr. Wyndham refused to have any thing to do with it. What! the gentleman, who, in all probability, will represent our city, appear at the head of such a party? O, no; his honourable mind would shrink from the association; and, you may depend upon it, Sir, that if they put Mr. Wyndham's name there without his consent, which they really did, they have not been very nice with regard to that of others. There's many a name lugged in by the head and shoulders, and which the man that owns it knows nothing of. This shews

you what miserable shifts they are put to, to make people believe their cause is popular; but all won't do. I understand the only house that Mr. Benett has got for the reception of his voters, is the lock-up house in Endless Street! To be sure, its one way of keeping them snug; and, as he probably expects to go there after the election is over, it will be airing the beds for his reception, and as many of the Quorum as may choose to accompany him. Wherever you go now, there's nothing talked of but the election, men, women, and children, are all full of it. I heard an old woman in the Blue-boar-row say, as I was walking down last night, but I don't know to whom she referred, "I hope we shall never have an *atheist* to represent this county."—'I hope so too,' said I; nor yet a man that needs a *penny* subscription.

JOHN BLUNT.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE been so long accustomed to address my letters to *you*, that though the present respects communications from individuals, I must be permitted to follow the same course; it is more familiar to me, and will not be the less pleasing to them; more especially as it was owing to my correspondence with you, that we first became acquainted; and the subject is not of a private nature, but of public, general, and present importance.

In the Salisbury Gazette of the 4th instant, you will have seen a letter from Mr. Atherton of Calne; the person who produced those excellent resolutions which I mentioned in my last, and which Mr. Benett and his *Gaby* friends opposed: I shall be most happy to shake hands with that gentleman on the day of nomination. I have read the life of the late Bishop of Llandaff, and I am of opinion that he had better have allowed some other person to have become his biographer. I have often thought that with all his excellencies, he was a very ambitious man, and his life had much better have been entitled "Memoirs of a disappointed man of talent." He was a *mitre* hunter all his days, an acknowledged temporiser in his politics, consequently he was like Mr. Methuen, or more properly Mr. Methuen *is* what the Bishop *was* in public life, an injudicious friend, and an inefficient foe. For, gentlemen, Mr. Atherton has introduced the Bishop of Llandaff, and the quotations from his book, as a reproof of me, for condemning what I thought was wrong in the conduct of Mr. Methuen; and as far as they go, I do not see but they would have agreed very well if they had sat in the same house

—there they would have proved a *constellation*; but separated as they have been in the important office of Legislators, they have had more the appearance of comets, *brilliant* but *irregular*, and at once the *emblem* and the *omen* of *change!*

Unless I require a little more acquaintance with my vernacular idiom, the Bishop of Llandaff was, in the fullest sense of the word, what Mr. Atherton so much abhors—a *partisan!* Adhering to party, yet secretly contemplating change, whenever a more wealthy bishopric presented itself. The act of his life most to be deplored is, his writing an account of it; but for that I should to this hour have considered him a "*venerable*" bishop—a man worthy to be reverenced, not merely on account of his age, "for *old* men are not always wise," but for his love of science, for his endeavours to promote its interests; and his piety might have been added, but I fear that his zeal for religion in too many instances, was not without a political taint:—"The hoary head" we all allow "is a crown of glory," yet only when it is found in the way of righteousness. Age, under any circumstances, is however a very equivocal foundation for esteem. We have a man among us, who is a youth in Salisbury, quite a stripling, and whose boyish tricks are known to every boy in the town; by travelling to Swindon, however, he instantly more than doubles his age (and he has been known to travel there and back in an hour) his auburn locks become grey as a badger, and his cheeks which but now were as plump as a burnt plumb-pudding, resemble a half-blown bladder, and hang in folds something like the drapery of a tent bedstead. In fact, he can add forty-three years to his, whenever he pleases, being forty in his native city, and eighty-three in the home "of his adoption," and which is done no doubt for "the honour of his true Wiltshire family!"

Bishop Watson's definition of a *partisan* in the first instance, certainly applies to himself; and Mr. Atherton surely does not mean the second to apply to his attachment to Mr. Methuen, when making the following quotation—"The best partisans" are "men of no talents, with principles of implicit attachment to particular men." However this may be, he is certainly wrong in supposing that I am a friend to *party*, or that I wish to see party men represent the county. It is not to be expected that he should have paid as much attention to what *I* should write as Bishop Watson; but on referring to my letter of the 23rd of April, he will find the following passage: "You will mistake me very much, gentlemen, if you suppose that in objecting to Mr. Methuen's conduct in the House of Commons, I mean to impress on your minds that there cannot be such a thing as a virtuous

opposition to the measures of any government;" and again, —"This opposition, however, ceases to be a *good*, and becomes an *evil*, the instant that it is rendered subservient to party influence and intrigue; it ceases to be *honest* the moment it is reduced to a *system*." Now, gentlemen, I will tell Mr. Atherton how far I am a party man. When I see none but party men coming forward as Candidates for a seat in the House, I certainly should prefer him whose party was most attached to that mode of government, most likely to secure the peace and happiness of the county. If my foregoing observations about systematic opposition be just; if the spirit even of his *own* is considered, Mr. Methuen must change again to preserve his esteem; for as it is impossible, considering the fallibility of human nature, that the minister should always be right, it is equally within the compass of possibility that the Opposition (notwithstanding they possess all the wisdom, and all the talents of the country) may sometimes be in the wrong. I find no fault with Mr. Methuen for *voting* on both sides; it is for attaching himself to any side; —it is for becoming what Mr. Atherton and I so much disapprove of; it is for becoming a *partisan* that I so much blame Mr. Methuen; and comes precisely up to my views of a representative of the people—that where directed, he should vote according to the wishes of his constituents; that where he is not, he should be left to the dictates of his conscience, and the guidance of his judgment. If he supposes that I attach criminality to Mr. Methuen for voting alternately with the minister or the opposition, he mistakes me; an upright member of Parliament will often be found doing so, therefore what I approve of in another, I never will condemn in him: but for attaching himself to any side, or party in the House—for surrendering his independence, which may be done as well by becoming the partisan of a faction as of government. It is for that, and that alone, which I condemn him. It is not my wish to deprive Mr. Methuen of the "*honour*" of being found on both sides of the house; it is my wish that he would deprive himself of the digrace of *staying* on one of them, and voting as the party give the nod; a party to whom (in the opinion of every man I have heard speak on the subject) he attached himself without sufficient reason, or indeed any reason at all. He was wrong in associating himself with any party on his first entrance into the House of Commons; he was wrong in leaving that party without a sufficient reason; he was farther wrong in leaving his new chosen friends without a cause sufficiently good, not in his own opinion merely, but in the opinion of the public; for being a public servant, if he has

not a regard to their opinions, he is unworthy of being their representative; and he surely knew, when joining the *Talents*, that he was acting directly contrary to the general sense of the county. If he supposed on the principle of *assimilation*, that he should become a man of talent by uniting with those who boasted their exclusive possession, he was to be commended for his desire of improvement: but he acted under the influence of fear—he dreaded Brougham's tongue; the remembrance of the lashing he got from that gentleman has accompanied him as his evil genius ever since! The reason why I advocate the cause of Mr. Wellesley, is because he is attached to no party; he has voted sometimes with the minister, as he ought to have done; sometimes against him, which was equally his duty.—This is the way an independent man will act—it is the way he should act;—it is the way Mr. Wellesley has acted;—it is to his *honour that he has been found on both sides of the house*, without enlisting himself to either. Whatever Mr. Atherton's opinions may be of *resident Candidates* (but he has too much good sense and discernment to make the foolish distinction) or of *resident voters* out of the house, I do not think he will approve of *resident voters* in the house,—of men, who take a lease of their seats on the opening of every new parliament, and vote according to *seats* rather than to *sentiments;* men who conceive that independence consists in nothing but a continued harrassing, unprincipled opposition to government, whoever may be the members of it, or whatever the mode.

As the doctrines I have advanced are strictly constitutional, and as I know that they are Mr. Atherton's, I hope from his knowing that Mr. Wellesley has acted up to them, that he will give him a vote at the ensuing election; or, should his vote be engaged, his interest, which I know is very great. I am encouraged to make the request from his having said in the conclusion of his postscript to me, "The freeholders of Wiltshire want honest men, who look only to the people's interest, not party men who look only to their own." These words contain a volume of political truth, and highly applicable to my subject. Mr. Wellesley has given proof sufficient of the integrity and disinterestedness of his mind, and the independence of his principles, to entitle him to his esteem; and, gentlemen, to your warm and liberal support.

If life and health permit, I propose being at Devizes on the day of nomination; when I hope Mr. Atherton's favourite Candidate and mine will be the same. But whether or not, I shall be proud to shake him by the hand, and present him with a bit of "Wellington blue," knowing that if he takes it for his sake, he will keep it for mine.

Gentlemen, as reading and warm weather are apt to make people drowsy, and as I write only to those whom I wish to awake, and to keep awake, I shall divide what I have to say to you into two letters; you will thus be able to read one at your breakfast, and the other when you take a wiff in the afternoon. Wishing you many a comfortable one, I am, gentlemen, your faithful friend, TITUS TRUEMAN.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

A CORRESPONDENT, who signs himself *Inquisitive* in a letter addressed to me, has made some very important inquiries, and insinuated some very important information. It is important in whichever way we view it; both as it respects the person who is the chief object of inquiry, and more especially as respecting yourselves, who have to decide upon the principles and the conduct of the several Candidates, who have come forward to solicit your choice; and also the world and posterity who will in this instance be guided by your decision.

To the inquiry made respecting the reason of my delaying my observations on Messrs. Fisher's and Benett's accounts, my correspondent must recollect, that I distinctly stated that there were some particulars in the account which I did not understand, I am in full possession of them now, and when I next address you it will be on that subject. With respect to the offensive epithet of *sharks*, and the disreputable character given of the freeholders of Wilts by Mr. Benett, on the score of integrity, it is probable that such language did take place; it was a very natural reply to Mr. Fisher's observations on the want of society If Mr. F. said I am a perfect stranger in the county, I shall have no person to associate with; Mr. Benett may be easily conceived to have said, "So much the better for you, you will find the Wiltshire farmers a set of this, that, and t'other;" and he might say *sharks*. So much for the probability of the thing; but the case is rendered *more* probable, from the bad terms on which Mr. Benett had been living with some of his farmers; he conceived he had been ill used by them; they had bit him; he thought no name too bad for them, and he called them *sharks*. So much for the *greater* probability of the case. But I consider it as fully established, that Mr. Benett did say in answer to Mr. Fisher's regretting the want of society," So much the better, you will find the Wiltshiremen sharks, who will bite you through both ears if you don't take care." I do not merely believe that Mr. Benett said this

because of Mr. Fisher's assertion, but from the way in which Mr. Benett endeavours to get rid of it, there is guilt in it. Had he said, "I never said so," and left it, I should have liked it better; but when he says, "I *could not* say so," it staggers me. He had the faculty of speech as formerly; he had the same good liking (and probably some of it not unmerited) to the farmers as before, and no doubt the same inclination to express it. "*Did you steal that lump of sugar?*" said the mother to the child; "*No, I did not,*" says the daughter. "*You're sure you didn't?*" says mamma; "*I couldn't,*" says little sweet tooth, though she had hands to take it, teeth to chew it, an inclination to set them a going; the sugar gone, and the maid says she saw her take it? Against all this, you would think, "*I couldn't do it,*" a very unsatisfactory account of how the sugar became invisible. This is precisely the evidence with regard to the *sharks*, and I think it must be believed that Mr. Benett did call the farmers of Wilts by that name. "*Bite through both ears!*" What an idea! I pity a poor head in such a situation. How his eyes must look at the moment! Very little time then to think of "birth, parentage and education!" What "ecstatic joy" he must feel just as the shark gave a bite; and how it must revive him, if at the same time "the sun was scattering around him in rich profusion the rays of the morning!" How he must wish for a change of situations with the Old Moon-Raker, drinking his exhilarating glass to the memory of dear 1772, and partaking of all these

——————"ecstatic joys,
"Allied to bustle, but averse to noise!"

What "Inquisitive" may have heard about another discarded farmer of Mr. Benett's, it is impossible for me to say; he should recollect, by the way, that there are always two sides to a story, and if he were only obliged to hear as many as I am compelled to listen to, from morning to night, he would wish his head in the *shark's* mouth in less time than the Moon-Raker is going to *Swindon*, though that is often while the clock is striking *one!!* I should be sorry so to lend the name of "my adoption," to any thing that would, in the slightest degree, misrepresent the character or conduct of Mr. Benett. I believe it to be the feeling which the Candidates have towards each other. Mr. Wellesley's character and cause stand in no need of *lies* to secure justice to the one, and success to the other. I seek no undue advantage, I will take none; the privilege of doing this, I concede to the Old Moon-Raker. My "Inquisitive" friend must tell those who gave him the information respecting Norton farm, that as far as my recollection goes, the lease of Norton farm was granted by Mr. Benett's

father when he was dying—when he was near death. The thirty acres to which a reference is made, were inserted in the lease, but inserted by mistake, for the *thirty acres* never did belong to the farm let to Powell. If my memory be correct, all differences were compromised by Mr. Benett's allowing Mr. Powell *thirty pounds* per annum for the thirty acres. With regard to the minister and the tythes, I have ever understood that the great tythes belong to Mr. Benett, and the incumbent has a portion of land in lieu of the small tythes. If the clergyman accepts of something instead of his tythe, he can surely have no just ground of complaint against either the landlord or the tenant, that he had not received them. I can see nothing in the transaction with Powell, or the minister, that can, in any degree, attach blame to Mr. B. I rather think the contrary. As to the turning out the other tenant, I remember the circumstance, and I cannot help saying, that Mr. Benett's summary way of dispossessing his tenants, is by no means compatible with the character of a good landlord. I am clearly of opinion, that until Mr. Benett's character is cleared up as a landlord, no Wiltshire yeoman can, with any degree of credit, give him a vote. It is to be lamented, that the Old Moon-Raker should, either from want of ability or zeal, have ever taken up his master's cause in this way, being his agent, and receiving so much per line for every one he writes. One charge disproved, would have done Mr. Benett more real service, than his perpetually asserting, what in the present state of things, nobody can believe, and which the Old Moon-Raker would, in other circumstances, be the first to laugh at them for believing.

On the subject of *religion*, which my correspondent mentions, I know not what to say. I acknowledge I have heard much—more than I had any desire to hear; and, considering the quarter from whence it came, it carries with it the appearance of truth. God forbid I should judge any man; I have been told that Mr. Benett has the same views of *religion* which his father had. I never confessed his father; I do not, therefore, know from *himself* what were his views; I never exchanged a word with Mr. Benett in my life; I therefore cannot know from his own lips what are his opinions on the same important subject. In this uncertainty, with regard to the opinions of others, I will give you my own; and I believe them to be strictly conformable to the laws of the land. I am clearly of opinion that no man who denies the existence of a God, consequently the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures; who disbelieves the doctrine of the Trinity, consequently the divinity of Jesus Christ, and the efficacy of his atonement, can be at all eligible to hold any public station, and far less

that of a legislator. One almost shudders at the idea of a man acting as a magistrate and administering an oath, which derives its solemnity from the Gospel on which it is taken, and which he believes to be a *fable*, and the worship it enjoins a *farce!* I do not *say*, gentlemen, that the principles I have mentioned are those of Mr. Benett; it is said that he holds some of them; but how, with the general doubt and suspicion that is attached to Mr. Benett's *faith*, or rather the *want* of it, any minister of the establishment could promise him a vote; and how, without a full and explicit declaration of his belief, in those important articles of our common faith, any Christian can give him a vote, is what I cannot now, nor ever shall be, able to reconcile—with the duty they owe their Creator, their country, themselves, and posterity. The freeholders have a right to demand an avowal of Mr. Benett's tenets; for who would entrust a man accused of having *no religion*, with the guardianship of one on which all our present and future happiness depends? A man, to whom the creed of Lucretius or Zoroaster, of Confucius or Mahomet, the mummery of Monkism, or the faith of Protestants, is alike important and indifferent! Suppose such a man in the House of Commons, and the interests of religion concerned; suppose, too, that he had the casting vote;—with all this, take his strong objection to the mode of providing for the parochial clergy—what forbodings must fill the breast of every man at all interested in the existence of the Established Religion, or anxious for its prosperity. I hope Mr. Benett is not such a man—I hope he is a good Christian; I know he has built a *chapel*; but then I am also informed that he has not been at church since he was high sheriff, and that is now ten years ago. Perhaps I am wrong in this particular, but the error is not wilful, and I shall be happy to correct it. Those who are better informed upon the subject, can give me the means of arriving at the truth; and you may depend upon it, gentlemen, that I shall not withhold a tittle of it from you.

To my friend, "*A Constant Reader*," I return my grateful acknowledgments for his opinion of my writings, so freely and so kindly expressed; and I will certainly avail myself of his kind and hearty invitation.—It is a pleasure to stand high in the estimation of good men, especially when that has been acquired by the dissemination of truth. I do not think, gentlemen, that from the first word I wrote to you, to the one I am now writing, there can be one found that would even insinuate a falsehood, or misrepresent a fact. I have used sarcasm, but never sophistry; and the kind reception of my well-meant endeavours by you, is more than sufficient for

the hours devoted to your information or amusement, or to both.

When I made the observation in the postscript at the conclusion of my letter, *That religion was a subject with which we had no concern, that it rested between a man's Creator and himself*, I merely referred to *sincerity* in religion; so I understood the import of the question to be; I never conceived that it referred *to a man with no religion at all!* If my correspondents will not put *their questions right*, how can it be expected that my answers should at all correspond with their desires. It affords me the highest gratification to know, that you believe me your faithful friend,

TITUS TRUEMAN.

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## GENERAL ELECTION.

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### *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

As the time is now near when the Candidates for your representation will come to the poll, I feel myself called upon to thank the county at large for the high honour they conferred on me at the last election, and to express my confident hope that, through the exertion of my numerous supporters, I may be again placed in the enviable situation to which I have once more the presumption to aspire.

My heart can never be sensible to the high compliment which has been already paid me, by so large a reserve of votes, in quarters where I have not had an opportunity of personal application, and my gratitude must ever bear testimony to that distinguished sense of liberality to which I was not deceived in trusting while I remained at my post in the House of Commons.

The numerous and independent offers of individual exertions in my favour, of freeholders bringing up votes free of expense—the gratifying and disinterested services of friends, increasing their zeal with the approach of the struggle—demand a more warm expression of feeling than it is in my power to convey. I can assure them it is not in the full sense of my obligations to them, but in my own expression of it that I am deficient.

I stand on my own grounds—on the independent interest of the county—that interest which first recognised my pretensions, and which I am now again soliciting—that interest which is alone my prop and my dependence, and by which I shall be always proud to stand against any other species of support.

For my public conduct I can only say I have acted uprightly to the best of my judgment on all occasions. I claim no merit but that of having acted honestly, and I make no promise but that of continuing to do so.

Begging your attendance in my favour, on the days of nomination and election, and warmly alive to the value of the feeling which has been manifested toward me,

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful and obliged servant,

*Chippenham, June* 6, 1818. PAUL METHUEN.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

A REPORT having been industriously circulated, evidently for the purpose of injuring Mr. Methuen in the opinion of the freeholders, that he had coalesced with Mr. Long Wellesley, in consequence of a card left by Mr. Tanner with Mr. Joel Rowden, of Clarendon, I beg to state that on the 17th of March last, as principal agent to Mr. Methuen, I wrote to Mr. Tanner, of Salisbury, a letter, of which a copy follows:—"Dear Tanner, I understand you are engaged for Mr. Long Wellesley, and I think you may serve my friend, Mr. Methuen, at the same time. Send me word if you cannot get the second votes of those you have already canvassed. I am, dear Sir, your's truly, Anthony Guy."——To which letter Mr. Tanner sent the following answer:—"Dear Guy, I do not feel that I can, consistently with my engagement with Mr. Wellesley, interfere in any way on behalf of Mr. Methuen. I am, dear Guy, your's truly, Jos. Tanner. Salisbury, 19th March, 1818."——Since this no communication or correspondence has taken place between us, and I beg most unequivocally to declare that to my certain knowledge Mr. Metheun has not coalesced, either directly or indirectly, with either of the Candidates, nor does he intend so to do. I beg to add, that many professional gentlemen in the county have accepted double agencies, and therefore I considered myself at liberty to make the above proposal to Mr. Tanner.

*Chippenham, June* 13, 1818. ANTHONY GUY.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

IT would be with very sincere regret were I unnecessarily to disturb the tranquillity of this great county. Since the notification of Mr. Benett's first address, I have endeavoured, *personally*, to pay my respects to all the freeholders of the

county, nor shall I cease to continue my canvass till the day of election commences.

I look forward to the successful termination of the contest in which I am engaged, with as much confidence as I do to the day of a public meeting, when I shall stand before the county courting inquiry into every part of my conduct.

The independence of my public conduct; the desire which I have shewn throughout my canvass of using no undue influence, has been the means of my securing such a majority of promised votes, as must satisfy the county at large that tried public conduct is preferred to vain expressions.

No man can reprobate more strongly than I do the disgraceful method of advocating a cause by the means of anonymous publications: never having sanctioned any one of these writings, I owe it to my own character to declare so, thus publicly.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient and very humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Marlborough, June* 11, 1818.

P. S. Mr. Calley having some time since informed me a report existed that I paid the expenses of a publication signed by Mr. Fisher, and which having been again circulated, I think it necessary now to declare that such a report is an infamous falsehood. I have never had any communication with Mr. Fisher whatever, nor to my knowledge have any of my friends, agents, or persons connected with me in any way.

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(COPY.)

THOMAS PIKE, of Heytesbury, having been informed there is a letter signed *Thomas Pike*, in the Salisbury Journal of the 8th of June, in which letter it is stated that my master, John Gale Everett, Esq. threatened to turn me out of his employ if I did not give my vote for his friends Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett: Mr. Everett made use of no threats to me on the occasion; nor was the letter which appeared in the Salisbury Journal written by me, or the contents of the letter made known to me, nor was I in the parish when it was written. The Mark of + THOMAS PIKE.

Witnesses,—*Geo. Smith, Joseph Reddrop.*

*Heytesbury, June* 9, 1818.

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I, STEPHEN NOKE, am ready at any time to come forward, and prove, upon my oath, that a letter in the Salisbury Journal of the 8th instant, signed "Thos. Pik," was written and dictated by me, STEPHEN NOKE.

*Heytesbury, June* 9, 1818.

## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,—I am requested by Mr. Timbrell, of Trowbridge, to state that the original letter, signed "*Thos. Pik,*" is at my office for inspection. The following is Mr. Timbrell's letter to me, which I beg the favor of you to insert in your next Journal,

And am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

*Salisbury, June* 13, 1818. G. BUTT.

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DEAR SIR,—A printed statement having been published, signed "Thomas Pike," denying writing the letter alluded to in one of Mr. Wellesley's addresses, it should be answered immediately, and for that purpose I send you the original letter, that it may be made use of in any way that may be thought proper; and to state that it may be inspected at your office, or at the office of the Printers.—"It is true the poor man did not state in such letter that his master threatened to turn him out of his employ if he did not vote for Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett;" but the letter states that such threat was made use of if he did *not vote for Mr. Benett.*

I remain, your's truly, THOS. TIMBRELL, Jun.

*Trowbridge, June* 11, 1818.

You will be pleased to observe the *Heytesbury post-mark* on the letter.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—A few weeks ago, having sent off some large orders, I sat down, in great good humour, to my accustomed pipe; and my thoughts running on the ensuing election, I soon perceived what was the true question at issue between the independent freeholders of Wiltshire, and a number of gentlemen who had assumed that *they* were the persons best qualified to *direct* who should represent this county in Parliament. I thought it, therefore, my duty to bring this matter out clearly and explicitly before you. In doing this, I saw no necessity to make a palaver about the honour of individuals composing a certain party, or the respect in which I hold every of them when acting as magistrates. It is not as gentlemen or as magistrates that we have now to do with them, but as a body of men united in an avowed attempt to nominate and return a representative to Parliament at their pleasure, securing to themselves all the advantages thence to be derived, at the expense of depriving every Wiltshire freeholder of his birthright.

I used the term "Quorum" as a term which, by common use, has acquired an aptitude of describing, pretty accurately, and in a compendious way, the men and their pretensions; which I warned my brother freeholders effectually to resist. On this single point I founded my reasonings in favour of returning Mr. Long Wellesley, as this is the only step now left us by which to secure our future independence; and if this be not done at the ensuing election, Wiltshire must take its place in the same class as Cornish boroughs.

These are plain facts, gentlemen, and I have urged any of our opponents to contradict them if they can, or defend them if they dare. But no one has ventured a reply save a contemptible "Scribbler!" and *he* comes forth, confessedly, not to meet the statement with fair argument, but to throw a "random squib?" in hope, peradventure, that its hissing and cracking would divert your attention from the question at issue. But the squib touched no one, spent its force in the kennel, and is gone out—*oh! proh pudor!*

It is nothing to you, gentlemen, that I sit here, smiling with a feeling of ineffable contempt at the clumsy productions of this squib-throwing "Scribbler"—nor would you pity *me* if I were as choleric as himself. The question is, as I have plainly stated it,—Wellesley, and a future vote for Wiltshire freeholders, and their children; or, *Benett*, and off with your hats and cringe to the "Quorum."

Let me assure you, however, there is no "Crabb" in my blood: if the "Scribbler himself were sitting at my elbow, I could lay my hand on his little "sleak head," and pat his forehead as coolly as I now do that of the puppy biting my shoe. What a sapient look the cur has—how he wags his tail and snuffs his nose—so, there puppy, be off—that's enough.

I have no sort of acquaintance with Mr. Benett, or with any of his agents. If any thing I have written appears like "a personal attack" upon any of them, it is wholly inadvertently. The "Scribbler" wrote his first paper so much like a lawyer's clerk, that I was involuntarily led to identify him in imagination with a spruce little fellow whom I once knew of that profession. If the "Scribbler" acquired his sort of lawyer-clerk-slang by too much familiarity with the "Quorum" or their underlings, I trust I shall be excused, and only advise him to improve his language by keeping better company in future.

It is good fun, gentlemen, to see the "Scribbler," with his squibs, bouncing about, crying, "venom," "malignant temper," "spitting venom" again and again! Some might think he had run away with my spitting dish, he raves so much about "spitting." But all this shews he has absolutely

*nothing* to say in the way of argument. He can only throw a "random squib" or so, harmless enough when once the stink is gone out. My son has translated his Latin, and says it means "two of a trade can never agree." Hump! I hope the "Scribbler" has not the impudence to put himself on a level with a "Clothier."

"But, gentlemen, to the point," says the "Scribbler." Well, Sir, say honestly, then, is it better to place our votes now and hereafter at the disposal of the "Quorum," or to reserve them in our own hands for the future use of ourselves and our children? *That* is *the point* at issue. Gentlemen, Does the "Scribbler" come to it like a man? No, indeed! He whines out something about "*unchristian-like*, ungentlemanly, and unmanly;" he cries out about "hurt feelings," and assures you he is no "Marplot;" poor fellow; *he* is in none of the secrets of the "Quorum!" so, then, (would you have thought it?) his friends set him a scribbling without telling him what he should write about! He was only bid to throw "random squibs" in the dark! no wonder he mistook a clothier for a *crab*-tree, and the sober produce of any evening pipe for animal "venom."

But he adds, "the plain question before us is, whether we shall elect out parliament man from our own gentry, or whether we shall suffer a *stranger*, a person from the *Devil's Arse a Peak*, who happens to have a *long purse*, to step forward and fill that situation?" Now, gentlemen, to say nothing of the classic purity of the language, and the unequalled elegance of the style of this notable paragraph, you will allow me to tell the "Scribbler" that though this may be *a question* with him and his fraternity, it is *not*, on the present occasion, the question to which the attention of Wiltshire freeholders ought to be directed.

It is of little moment whether the "Quorum" be pleased to nominate "*one of* their own *gentry*"—(a very *pretty* phrase, and *very descriptive*—I think gentlemen, Mr. "Marplot" *does* know *something* about these matters, though he pretends ignorance, poor man)—I was about to say, it will signify little to us or to our children, whether the "Quorum" nominate "*one* of *their own* gentry," or a *stranger* from a Johnny Groat's House, with any purse or no purse at all. If they are to nominate, "direct," and return our representative, there's an end to our voting as an independent body. We must descend from the station occupied by our forefathers, and sit henceforth among our worthy compeers of Cornwall.

This, brother freeholders, is the perdition with which our independence is threatened; *this* is the point to which the

manœuvres of the "Quorum" are carrying us. If any gentleman appears for our deliverance, possessing nerves strong enough to pass through the showers of "random squibs," it can be no valid objection that he "happens to have" a purse long enough to maintain the conflict. This latter is a qualification, which (*by the manifest direction of their squibs*) appears most of all to provoke the opponents of Mr. Long Wellesley. They always continue to have a fling at it—and with good reason; for the contest lying between a whole "Quorum" against an individual, they would presently exhaust an ordinary purse.

Gentlemen, suffer me to hope you will neither be scared by squibs nor misled by false lights. Stick close to *the question*—Wellesley, and independence hereafter for your children's' children;—or, *Benett*, and a place among Cornish boroughs.

Keeping in mind this short and true view of the question at issue, you will elect Wellesley this time as your deliverer from "Quorum" *influence*; and, if he behave in Parliament like a true independent English gentleman, as his outset among us gives every reason to think he will, you will choose him again as a testimony of your unhesitating approbation and confidence.

*Trowbridge.* A CLOTHIER.

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## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

The following is the letter written by Mr. Long Wellesley to Mr. Atherton, and alluded to by the former gentleman in his address to the freeholders, dated 1st of June instant, which appeared in our last week's paper:

"Sir,—I only yesterday had conveyed to me a printed copy of the resolutions proposed by you at the dinner at Marlborough. I think these resolutions do honour to any man of independence: had I attended that dinner, I most assuredly should have given them my humble support.

"I did not attend the dinner at Marlborough, because I was aware, that it was, in fact, a dinner given to Mr. Benett, not for the purpose of celebrating the independence of the county of Wilts.—If any dinner should be given in the county, at which I may attend as a candidate for the honour of representing the county, I shall feel it my duty to propose your resolutions.—You are at full liberty to make this letter as public as possible. I am, Sir, very faithfully,

"W. L. WELLESLEY."

"*Cirencester, 29th May*, 1818."

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"We might have hoped that the contest for Wiltshire, in which the candidates are two gentlemen known and respected in the county, and another of high birth, professing his intention hereafter to reside within its limits, would have proceeded without any violation of that decorum to which even in the deadly conflict an honourable mind will scrupulously adhere." OLD MOON-RAKER, *June 8th.*

"If in this early stage of the contest, angry words and harsh expressions have been resorted to, the opponents of Mr. L. Wellesley may thank themselves for it; as I will venture to assert, than no gentleman of decent character, fortune, and connections was ever before assailed with such foul and unmerited abuse. The scandalous tales which have been circulated respecting him, have been all sufficiently refuted, and the propagators of them have lowered their tone; but some of the writers against him, though they affect moderation and candour, cannot yet conceal their deep-rooted malignity." NATIVE, *May 25th.*

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,—After a perusal of the two paragraphs above quoted, your readers will be sufficiently informed by the latter, why the hope expressed in the former has not been fulfilled.

In any observations which I may have made on the Old Moon-Raker's writings, I have confined myself to the part he has taken in the present contest; to any other act of his life, I have not directed a thought. His insinuations, which refer to "a writer" in the present contest, cannot with justice be directed to me; but as I have twice in my life attended at public meetings in which Mr. Hunt took a part, and as your correspondent attempts to convey a heavy charge, which might be supposed to arise out of some such circumstance, I have thought, that though his attack may be pointed to another quarter, part of his bitterness may be designed for me. I shall therefore explain my conduct. Twice only have I ever attended at political meetings; first at Salisbury, nine years ago, when the same resolutions were adopted which had been previously passed at a large meeting in Hampshire, and which had been there seconded by Mr. Chamberlayne, the present member for Southampton. The meeting at Salisbury was regularly convened by the Sheriff—it was attended by a numerous body of respectable persons from various parts of the county: there was no disturbance of the peace that I heard of; and as soon as the meeting terminated, I quitted the city with some of my neighbours.

The other meeting I allude to (which can scarcely be called political) was held at Warminster, on the subject of the Corn Laws. I attended, without knowing who would be present, and without any previous arrangement; nor had I communication with any one but what arose in public discussion. I have nothing to regret in my conduct on that business; but I will not enter farther into it (unless forced in self-defence) than to say, that I was thanked for my candour and courtesy by those who were opposed to me; nay, the very person who is supposed by some to be the Old Moon-Raker, met me in company a short time afterwards, and was pleased to compliment me on the part I had taken.

I never in my life attended at any political club or society; I never was engaged in any political transaction but those already mentioned; and never published a sentence on any political subject, unless the Corn Bill and the present contest can be deemed such. Can it then be said of me that I am "a coadjutor in dangerous projects, threatening the peace and welfare of society?"

If the trifles I have written have had a wider circulation than I should myself have given them, such a practice is not new in electioneering annals: the Moon-Raker can inform us at whose expense *his* periodical lucubrations have been published, and systematically circulated, throughout the county. I have never in my life been paid for any thing I have written, nor shall I on the present occasion; such an expectation never entered my head; I repeat—*I have no private purpose to answer.*

On the motives of policy which may be supposed to influence the public conduct of persons taking a part in this contest, I have freely expressed my doubts and convictions; but I declare that I have never intended to call in question the private character, or impeach the honour of any man.

I have no wish for any "reputation" beyond that which my family, my neighbours, and all who knew me best, or have had transactions in business with me, may be disposed to allow me. I do not desire to shelter myself from examination; but as far as the grosser part of your correspondent's insinuations may be intended to be applied to me, I pronounce them to be utterly false.

For the present I shall say no more; but I shall be ready to defend myself, and give any explanations at the proper time and place.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.

A NATIVE.

## *To the Old Moon Raker.*

SIR,

I HAVE never sullied my *real* name by becoming the propagator and supporter of "slander and falsehood;" and the same determination has been my guide during the assumption of a *fictitious* appellation.

I have not been induced by any candidate's "superior wealth" to become the supporter of his cause: I do not consider *him* "responsible for the sentiments which I express, or the observations that I make on the events now happening in our county." I owe *him no obligations*, and he shall place *me under none*. My support of his cause has been *voluntary*, honourable, consistent, and unbiassed—and you are, therefore, at the least, uncourteous to treat with general disrespect *all* the advocates of Mr. Wellesley because *one* of them might have fitted, a little too unceremoniously, the cap upon your brows. Be assured, Sir, independence extends wider than the interest of your idol, and some of its *best* advocates will eventually be found supporting the gentleman Mr. Benett calls his "*opponent**."

In all probability you will continue to believe that your arguments remain unanswered; but it is very evident those of your correspondents stand uncontroverted. And even admitting that they *had* failed to "vindicate the pretensions of one candidate," is is very certain you have produced no reasons whatever for "the preference you shew to another."

In the letter immediately preceding your last, you have attempted an apology for electioneering clubs; and because their members did not *collectively* use much interest on two or three recent occasions, you award them support, and endeavour to insure them approbation. But, Sir, you are not so ignorant as not to know, that if in *principle and design* these institutions remain *as they were*, that their strength is become contemptible, and their power of doing mischief contracted; and if, at the election of Mr. Methuen, the signified resignation of Mr. Long, and the preconcerted offer of Mr. Benett, they did not call together their deserted and unpopular bands—it was because *they dared not*. And although Mr. Benett is generally supposed to have relied upon their support, he would inevitably have lost all chance of succeeding in the object he contends for, if the clubbists had dared to propose him for our choice. Hence it is that they are compelled to use, *individually*, that sort of interest in

* It is worthy of much remark that Mr. Benett in his last address *singularly* enough talks of "my opponent"—and why not opponents? Is *his* interest and *Mr. Methuen's* so identified that he dares not say opponents? There is really much food for speculation in this same address, this *lapsus pennæ* of the "local" patron of independence!

behalf of that gentleman which they cannot, dare not, *collectively* attempt.

Your estimate of the character which a candidate should bring with him when he solicits our suffrages, is perfectly correct and certainly conclusive. He should be enabled to say, that he is *better* qualified than his opponent "by intellectual and moral qualities;" he should be thoroughly independent as to fortune; and should possess "ascertained acquirements of general and local knowledge." Are you prepared deliberately to affirm, and satisfactorily to prove, that this character your favourite candidate is enabled to produce and capable to retain?—Are his intellectual and moral qualities so bright, that they must dazzle us into admiration?—Is his property so *independent*, that it has enabled him *hitherto* to pass through life without difficulty and without question? And is it as ample and as unencumbered, that we shall have no fears for his independence, and no misgivings as to his professions, should he obtain the reward of his present exertions—a seat in Parliament? It is nothing to tell us that all these things are so—the freeholders of Wiltshire want something more than mere assertions; they require arguments, and expect proofs, to illustrate them.

It is not a matter of course, that because a gentleman and his father before him have always resided in our county, that he should make an effective member of parliament. It is not a matter of course, that activity as a magistrate should render him an able member of parliament. It is *not* a matter of course, that because his situation as President of an Agricultural Society has introduced him to agricultural men—because he has attempted to *abolish tythes*—because he has written and given evidence as to the supposed necessity of a *very high* prohibitory duty on the importation of corn, in which opinion neither the House of Commons nor the country coincided;—nor is it because he has manufactured his cloth, or makes his own ploughs, that he should of necessity become an independent and efficient member of parliament. And yet these, or some of these, are the chances on which he throws for success—the foundations on which his hopes are constructed. Sir, it is very doubtful whether this gentleman's peculiar and all-commanding abilities are as conspicuous as you would wish us to believe; whether his character may not possess more of *speculation* than solidity; and whether he is not too much wedded to one *particular* interest *(the agricultural)*, duly to watch over the *general* well-being of society. It would also be highly conducive to our advantage to be *better informed* than we are as to his *political creed*, and especially with reference to that *most important measure*—by general use denominated, *Catholic emancipation*.

It has been over and over again asserted, and again and again refuted, that undue influence had been put in practice in behalf of Mr. Wellesley. I here assert that influence as unconstitutional, as degrading, as mean, and as contemptible, as ever disgraced the annals of an election contest, or soiled the character of a cause which has been miscalled independent, *has been exercised, and is exercising* by the partisans of another candidate. I am not accustomed to make assertions unless I possess the means of proving them; and it is because I would not invade the ties of former friendship, and unloose the link of acquaintance, that I do not now hold up to public dishonour and to public discredit, the *falsehoods* that have been resorted to, and the influence that has been attempted by those partisans. From a participation in these contemptible efforts to support his election, I fully acquit Mr. Benett,—I know him to be too respectable even to rejoice should they succeed;—but, Sir, rely upon it, the instance that has already been adduced that this gentleman is fettered with some ill-judging, over-zealous, and not scrupulous friends can be very easily shewn and multiplied. You may write *nine* more letters but you cannot rail away my proof.

As "calumny and abuse are not the weapons with which I have combated," I deem no apology necessary for having again addressed you; and whether you shall think it worth while to present us with "No. 10" of your periodicals is now as immaterial as whether you reside at Swindon, at Salisbury, or at *Shaftesbury* *. I shall continue to give my "unbiassed" support to that cause I have attempted to vindicate, and I have but few fears that my wishes will be gratified, and that "the triumph of the election is secure."—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"Neither HERE nor THERE." 1818.

* Intelligence has just reached me that the Old Moon-Raker is really not the gentleman I had supposed, and my authority is of that nature as to feel myself quite satisfied that the writer in question—neither lives at Swindon nor Salisbury—*but out of the County.*—Were I to give his name it would be considered uncourteous—but it would not lessen his character—for it is highly respectable.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

SIR,—When a gentleman of character, of family, and of fortune, is wantonly if not maliciously assailed by the pens and the tongues of slanderous and violent men, it should be no matter of wonder to a mind like your's, that his friends stand forward to refute calumnious and scandalous misrepresentations, and to ward of the effects of some of the foulest aspersions that have ever been heaped on any individual. I conclude not in the number of those friends the supposed

"hireling writer," *(whoever he may be;)* though I believe there is none such,) that may unfortunately chance to deserve the stigma which you have placed on his "undefended reputation." Although your observations on *my* correspondence are probably more *ingenious* than *candid*, yet there are some parts of your addresses which I cannot but notice. If the representation of Wiltshire ought not (as you say) to be the appendage of any house or of any family, I would ask, Why should the representation of this county be the birthright of a native of Wiltshire only? and why in particular the birthright of Mr. Benett? Why should connection of *blood (which is a mere accident of nature)* give a better title to the representation of a county than connection by *marriage*, which is the most honourable connection upon earth, and which rests upon the *choice* and *preference* of the individual himself.

But even here, taking yourself upon your own fallacious argument, allow me to ask, What is there in the *blood* of *Mr. Benett* that entitles him to "adulation," such as that which you bestow on him? and what will be the *degradation* into which the freeholders of "Wiltshire will (as you declare) inevitably fall," by preferring the *blood* of the Hero of Waterloo to that of the *family of Pythouse?* In the present instance it is ridiculous to make comparisons of *blood*. If an observation on that subject had arisen from Mr. Wellesley or his friends, it would probably, *at the least* have been termed *excusable vanity*; but since it has occurred with *your* party, it is undoubtedly understood to be *inexcusable absurdity*. As to Mr. Salmon and the magistrates, and your beliefs and disbeliefs, and the other worn-out topics of your two last letters, I rejoice that those topics are set at perfect rest (*except by yourself*) and that every question which has been raised to scandalize the character of a gentleman, and a man of honour, and of strict independence, and integrity, has been so satisfactorily answered, that the very questions themselves have been the means of serving his cause; and the answers have essentially contributed to place his ensuing election beyond the possibility of a doubt.

I shall not be singular in hailing the day when that auspicious event occurs! The county will then, and not *till then*, be relieved from its present *shackles* and *thraldom*. There is not a Wiltshire man in existence who ought not most anxiously to pray for this desirable occurrence; and setting party spirit aside, which I thank God I can do, I sincerely think that the election of Mr. Long Wellesley, as a representative for the county of Wilts, "*is a consummation devoutly to be wished.*"

VERITAS, *Junior*.

## *To the Editor of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

Mr. Editor,—I am a freeholder of the county of Wilts, and must own that, till lately, I have always felt a peculiar satisfaction in having property in a county, so distinguished and so respected throughout the kingdom for the liberal, gentleman-like, honourable, and pleasant manner in which its public business has been conducted, as long as I can remember. I am therefore deeply concerned to witness the change that has begun to take place, by a breach in the most important part of it—that of its election of a representative of the county in Parliament. There are now three Candidates for that honour—all of whom have every pretension necessary for the situation, except one: that one was in their power, if they had thought fit to have availed themselves of it; and they will have cause, no doubt, in six months' time, bitterly to regret that they did not embrace it; and it is—the approbation of a county meeting, where every freeholder in the county, who thought it worth his while, might have attended, and held up his hand in favour of those two out of the three that he deemed most worthy of the situation. This is the mode of proceeding that has been the practice of the county for the last forty years, and in which Mr. Penruddocke, Mr. Goddard, Sir James Long, and Mr. Wyndham, &c. were elected; and so numerous was the attendance of the freeholders on these occasions, that the meeting has been held in the open air, for want of a room large enough to contain them; and where every freeholder, as I said before, held up both his hands, if he liked it, for the man of his choice. The observations, therefore, of the writers in your and other papers, who call this keeping the county in a state of bondage—and the members being chosen by a Quorum and by two clubs (the whole of which Quorum and clubs alluded to do not consist, nor ever did, of thirty or forty persons altogether)—would be hardly worth noticing, if the assertion of the county being in a state of bondage to them had not been so frequently repeated, as that ignorant people may be induced to believe there is some truth in it: and one cannot but regret that this idea has been at least encouraged by, if it has not originated with, persons whose respectability, one should have thought, would not have suffered them to have countenanced so absurd a supposition. If the elections were so smuggled by thirty or forty persons, where were the remaining four or five thousand freeholders? where were all these strenuous advocates for liberty, that so exclaim against

Quorums and clubs, that they did not come forth, in opposition to such a monopoly of patronage? Why, Sir, they know that there is not a word of truth in all this assertion: they know that every freeholder had a power who chose it, and did exercise the right of voting, by holding up his hand, as he pleased, at every one of these elections. But, unfortunately, there are some classes of men in the county whom so quiet, harmonious, social way of settling the business did not exactly suit: they thought it very wrong that the Candidates should put an advertisement in the county paper expressive of their intention to offer themselves, if approved of at a county meeting; and await patiently the sense of such a meeting, and yield to its decisions:—there were no public dinners, no canvassing, no flattering speeches, that gratified either their pride or their appetite—and no alehouses opened. Ambition is certainly a very prevailing passion; and we must not be very much surprised to see men of good abilities, high character, and ample possessions, carried away by it. Such I sincerely believe the three present Candidates are. But will they permit a freeholder, without taking offence, to put a question or two to them?—they may answer them, or not, as they please. It is supposed, that, if they stand a poll, the expense of it cannot be much short of 20,000*l.* each. Is there not some danger that, however pure their intentions are now, they must, if successful, be obliged either to submit to privations unbecoming the members of so great a county as the county of Wilts; or, what is still worse, and which I am sure their honourable minds would revolt at, to make a sacrifice of their independence, if the ministers of the day should think it worth purchasing? or of becoming the tools of faction, with a hope of being rewarded hereafter? Perhaps some of the Candidates may say—"We are in no fear of being so involved; for our votes will be chiefly carried by our friends, at their own expense." But it must immediately strike such a Candidate, that, in accepting their generous offer, he binds himself to fight their battle to the last vote, though his utter ruin be the consequence now, and at all future times; or to forfeit that which is still dearer to him—his honour: at least, I would recommend him to accept their offer with a qualification to have a right to withdraw whenever he pleases. The next question I would ask the Candidates, is—Have they reflected on the incalculable good that even half the interest only of 20,000*l.* will enable them to do to their country, when disposed of judiciously, in support of public institutions in the county, and private charities, in addition to what they expend that way

at present—instead of expending it all at once in injuring the morals and disturbing the peace of the county? The third question I would take the liberty to ask of them, is—Have they coolly considered the consequence of this contest, unless they now, even now, stop short?—the ill blood they will create amongst neighbours?—(they all have children) the value of this 20,000*l.* to their younger children? Would it not be more for their honour and happiness to call on their friends and agents to stop their unbecoming paper war—to meet together in a friendly way—to join, in a request to the sheriff, to call a county meeting, at some impartial place, (in the middle of Salisbury Plain, or Stonehenge, if they please), and to abide by what the High Sheriff shall declare to be the sense of that meeting—to cease their endeavours to vilify and degrade all the most respectable men in the county in the eyes of their tenants and neighbours? Such language might do very well from Hunt at Spafields, but is totally misplaced in a contest for the county of Wilts. —I trust I have said nothing in this letter that they, or any one else, can take offence at; if I have, I beg that individual's pardon. My hope is to conciliate—not to inflame. I have now done, and shall take my leave, by signing myself

A FRIEND TO PEACE & GOODWILL.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

I TRUST that the attention of the freeholders of the county will be particularly directed towards the last address of Mr. Long Wellesley, and that they will form a correct judgment of the extraordinary production which it contains under the signature of Thos. Pik: that judgment must also refer to an authentic production of the same person, Thomas Pike, of Heytesbury, which has since been published. I readily acquit Mr. Wellesley himself of suspecting that the paper which he sanctioned by making it a part of his address to the county was in fact both falsehood and forgery. One must lament that the pretensions of a Candidate for the representation of Wiltshire should in any degree have been made, by his too zealous friends, to rest on such foundations.

I have a personal wish also that the various letters addressed to me in the various newspapers, and circulated through the county by the adherents of Mr. Long Wellesley, at very great expense, should be attentively read by every freeholder. The task will be laborious, as the matter is nauseous and offensive.

The freeholders cannot but lament that the pretensions of any Candidate for the representation of Wiltshire should in any degree be made, by his too zealous friends, to rest on such foundations.

Mr. Wellesley is truly told that Mr. Everett, of Heytesbury, is a member of the Deptford Inn Club, and that with many other gentlemen of the county he has undertaken to bring to the poll the freeholders of his own immediate neighbourhood in the interest of that gentleman's opponent, free of any expense to themselves or to their favourite Candidate.

Does a Candidate for Wiltshire deem it disgraceful to be the member of a club upon which its enemies cast no reproach, without admitting that when the independent freeholders wanted protection against the pretensions of a single family it was found there, not in favour of one of their own members, but in favour of a gentleman of North Wiltshire, till then unknown to them? Its bitterest enemies admit that in some measure the freeholders are indebted to that club for the glorious triumph of 1772.

Does a Candidate for Wiltshire deem it an objection to any gentleman, that though not possessed of redundant wealth, he will concur with others in enabling his less opulent neighbours to offer their independent voices at the poll, without expense to themselves or injury to their families? Is that the homage which we might expect a Candidate to render to the independence of the county?

Mr. Everett, of Heytesbury, is too well known, and wherever known too much respected, to suffer in his reputation from any publication. He is not an oppressor of the poor, nor is he a tyrant to control the freedom of those around him who flourish in his prosperity. Censure upon him must be founded in falsehood. The advantages to be derived to any Candidate from any aspersion cast upon his name, and upon other persons far inferior to him, can be but momentary. They may be very malignant, but they cannot add to the triumph of any virtuous cause.

The day is fast approaching when the principles of the glorious election of 1772 will be once more triumphant, or when the representation of Wiltshire will once more be esteemed as an appendage to the honours of a single family. Who shall doubt of the result of such an alternative?

I remain, Gentlemen, your constant reader,

THE OLD MOON-RAKER.

*Swindon, June* 12, 1818.

## GENERAL ELECTION.

Bless every man on earth, who ought to give—
" Long may Long Tilney Wellesley Long Pole live !"

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### *To William Long Wellesley, &c. &c. &c. Esq.*

SIR,

THAT the voice of praise as well as flattery has its charms in the eyes of men, I will not say wiser, but certainly older than yourself, and whose wisdom has been more practically conspicuous than your own, is a proposition I think no man will be bold enough to deny the full force of. I do not mention this as an important, though trite truism, but I suggest this as a plausible extenuation of that vanity which has elated you beyond the bounds of reasonable exultation and common prudence, and taught you to hail the pot-house scurrility of a cold-blooded libeller against your rival, as the honest effusions of patriotism, and devoted attachment to your person. Having said this honestly on the one hand, I will act as candidly by you on the other, and express my indignation at the manner in which you also have been treated, and cannot but blush for my county, when I consider the offensive line which has been adopted to exclude a stranger from its representation. I shall not sully my paper by further allusions to those disgusting and disgraceful transactions. But, Sir, you have laid yourself lamentably open, and I am by no means astonished that you were attacked; I only regret the mode of the attack, and that it was made unfairly. All the electioneering contrivance to defeat your sudden invasion of this *bequorummed* county, was indeed called forth by your unguarded professions of motives. What were they? Not your ambition of representing this independent county; not even your particular desire of representing a county which had the honour of being selected from the map of England for your enterprise; but your selfish wish of restoring to the house of Draycot (the house of Draycot indeed) an heir-loom which it never considered as its own, and which you would lose possession of, with every acre which you have in the county, in case of your lady's decease. Be assured, Sir, this letter flows from no unfriendly pen, from no hired scribbler, but from one who has been a silent listener to all that has been said on this occasion; from one who has seen too much of the follies and frailties of human nature to expect perfection from any man, much less from a young man cradled in extravagance, nursed in luxury, and placed by marriage in a situation at once the object of envy, flattery, and jealousy. You have not been used to truth, and perhaps it may not please you: I will not press it too strongly upon you, as you

are more likely to receive it profitably by not being at once overdosed with it. But, Sir, in the name of common sense, who could make you insert all those characters from your tenantry; why, I thought at first it was Messrs Day and Martin, who were offering their blacking to the county, when I saw such a family of puffs branching forth from every column of the newspapers. Thus bad begins, but worse remains behind; you have received no stain from all the filth that has been emptied upon you from the copious reservoir of your enemies, equal to the praise inflicted upon you by the venal goose-quill of *Titus Trueman*. You have been eulogized without being advanced by it; you have been caricatured unintentionally by your bedauber; you have been satirized, without finding it out, by high-sounding epithets and unappropriate eulogiums, ("Praise undeserved is satire in disguise") to which your character has no claim, and your merit no pretension. Such, Sir, is the value of the services which have been rendered you by the ravings of *Titus Trueman*. That this fellow is paid there can be no doubt; and I fear the county has as little from whom the money comes. *Titus Trueman* is a fine sounding name truly, and the Jackdaw really assumes a strut as he exhibits his borrowed plumage, which, in spite of a thorough want of common education, common grammar, common decency, and common sense, makes one almost smile with his pomposity, when so ludicrously contrasted with his own insignificance and stupidity. But, Sir, valuable as his services may have appeared, dearly as you have paid for them, has it never occurred to you, that the fable may be yet realized, and this miscreant stripped of the feathers under which he has concealed or rather displayed his native vulgarity and worthlessness? What would your feeling be, Sir, if the meanest, the basest, and most dirty motives could be brought home to that extoller of your merits; that infamous and hired calumniator of your rivals? What if it should turn out to be a character of the lowest description, the most revolting to the manly feeling of free-born Britons, a partner of *Castles* and *Oliver*, a false and odious informer, a mere spy, as he admits himself to be by the insinuations which he vomits forth, watching in some sink less foul than his disposition, the footsteps of another candidate from house to house, misrepresenting with downright falsehoods, and daring to call upon him to explain why he waited upon the agent of Mr. Benett? Shall we not fairly conclude, that either this is a most malicious and vain attempt to raise a cry of coalition against Mr. Methuen, or that that gentleman is mad? What possible advantage could a coalition be to him? The only effect would be, his ruin. This *Titus Trueman* knows, and that it is good ground to work

upon. But, Sir, after this candid conduct and explanation which Mr. Methuen has shewn and given, it would be much more honourable to you, it would be more creditable to your agents to have rejected such miserable expedients, to have trusted your case to the same fair means which have been before resorted to with success; and to have followed that fair example which has been so handsomely set by our present, I should say late representative. What, Sir, if you were farther to be told the reason of this fellow's antipathy to Mr. Methuen, and devotion to Mr. Benett? What, Sir, if you were to hear that the former offended him by not consenting to have his pocket picked of five guineas by paying that sum in advance for an article which he never made, and which he actually did not know how to make, never beginning it, and never finishing it? What, Sir, if you were to hear this same libeller had originally written a high panegyric of Mr. Benett, loaded with abuse of you, and only volunteered for your services because he was rejected in another quarter? Sir, I say, if these facts could be proved, where are the praises and patriotism of *Titus Trueman?* If your eyes are not open, those of the county are, long before this, to the miserable motives of this convicted spy, this *Oliver* or *Castles* of Salisbury, sent probably by Government to assist you in undermining the interest of the most independent Candidate among you; this atrocious and despicable slanderer, who is more likely to be *exalted* to that eminence which he merits, than you are to attain the summit of your vain and transitory ambition. Sir, I will not conceal the fact: this is not the first letter that has appeared from me; I before addressed myself in general terms of admonition towards Mr. Benett and you; I gave you friendly caution; I told you a rod was in pickle, if necessary, every stroke of which should draw blood. The scourge is still in my hand, and ready to make good its threatened and indeed merited castigation. But I am once more disposed to deal lightly with your foibles, and restrain that vengeance which the example of your champion would authorise. He is, as I before said, safe in his thorough insignificance; but that insignificance will not extend its ægis on its patron and renter. To attack him, I am aware, is like "rolling a chimney-sweeper in the mud;" but for this reason the county was not to remain in the dark as to the minutest traits of character of its would-be patriot and satirist.

Now, Sir, I shall take my leave for the present of you, and once more assure you that I have as little desire to hurt your feelings as I have intention to permit Mr. Methuen to be run down by unfair suspicions, encouraged by anonymous slanderers. I remain, Sir, your old acquaintance,

VETERAN.

P.S. I signed myself in my last, The Friend of Mr. Benett; but not at the expense of Mr. Methuen; I have not altered my signature. Perhaps, with my opinion, you have no right to complain of the alteration. You may once more be assured that it is not *Titus Trueman*, employed by you or your agents. The county now knows the value of the writer from the character of the man. I have no wish to stop him; let him wade on up to his neck in ink, he will never be again noticed :—

> "Destroy his web of calumny in vain,
> The creature's at his dirty work again."

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Brother Freeholders!—I did not intend to have troubled you again, but that I think the letter, signed W. L. Wellesley, in the last paper, is an attempt, and a gross one, to mislead the electors of Wiltshire. No man has stronger feelings of reprobation for the conduct of this Mr. Everett than I have; but how can Mr. Benett be made in any way responsible for conduct, over which he has no control? It proves, therefore, only this, that Mr. B. has, like the rest of the world, a friend more zealous than wise, and here is the sum of the delinquency, as far as it affects the cause of Benett; unless, indeed, Mr. Wellesley is prepared to assert that he has no such injudicious friend; unless he will go further, and pledge himself not to poll a vote which he may have reason to believe was obtained by similar means. If he will not do all this, *Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione querentes.*

Men of Wiltshire, I have heard of a dinner at Marlborough, of Mr. Wellesley's friends, the price of which, including wine, was five shillings a-head; I have heard, also, that the entertainment was a sumptuous one; that public singers and newspaper reporters were retained, and that a considerable party continued till after sun-rise, drinking French wines. Five shillings per man cover the expense? impossible! By whom, therefore, was the surplus defrayed? If by Mr. Wellesley, to what an abyss of degradation are we sunk? Treating-houses opened for the freeholders of Wiltshire? Is this to be submitted to? Had such a proceeding taken place after the writ had issued, Mr. W.'s election would have been vacated by the treating-act; and shall we be only honest by compulsion? Is our independence such only as is enforced by penal laws, and not that which is the result of moral feeling? If it is, I shall curse the hour that provoked this contest, exposing, as it does, the nakedness of my native county—Not this the act of an injudicious friend, over whom the Candidate has no control—not this the overheated and unauthorised zeal of a professional agent,—but a shameless attempt at corruption, broad and glaring as the sun at noon-day.

Of Mr. Wellesley I repeat I know nothing, and am most

willing to believe that he is the victim of bad advice, in his intercourse with the world. I have never heard that he has been guilty of any thing unworthy the character of a gentleman, or of the name of Wellesley; but there is some secret agent that directs him to ill; let me, then, tell this man, whoever he may be, that his measures will be as devoid of success, as his machinations are devoid of principle; and that, unless Wiltshire has ceased to be what I can remember that it was, I may venture to quote to him from a celebrated author—"He may bribe, but he will not seduce; he may buy, but he will not gain; he may lie, but he will not deceive."

I shall wait most anxiously to hear, that Mr. Wellesley paid nothing more than his own share at the tavern at Marlborough.

A CONSCIENTIOUS *FREEHOLDER.*

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## *To my Brother Yeomen and Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

RESPECTED FRIENDS,—As I am well known to many of you, and, I trust, all who do know me consider me a peaceable man, a supporter of good government and civil order, not too precipitant; hitherto, therefore, I have promised no support to either of our present Candidates, I have watched all their proceedings, from the beginning of their canvass, and have seen much to find fault with, and, in particular, my mind has been greatly ruffled ever since the appearance of a letter in the Salisbury Journal, signed W. Long Wellesley, purporting to be an answer to an advertisement of some of our respected magistrates. I was then, and still am, much astonished that W. L. Wellesley should so far forget what is due to good order and common courtesy, as to send forth amongst us a principle so dangerous to the country at large, and even dangerous to the crown itself! Had I the ability, or was in the habit of much writing, I should give you my ideas at length upon the evil tendency of Mr. L. Wellesley's conduct; let it suffice, therefore, for me to call your serious attention to the whole of his proceedings, and I am sure you will not yoke yourselves under the banners of so much despotism; for my own part, I am clearly of opinion that W. L. Wellesley is unfit to sit in judgment in any civilized country whatever.—It is, however, my sincere wish that he do now begin to purge his mind of those arbitrary inlets which are too apparent, and which were, no doubt, fostered in *Turkey;* he may, then, at some future time, deserve some notice; and I do also seriously advise him, before he again attempts to disturb the peace of this or any other county, that he do zealously endeavour to initiate himself into the true principles of the British constitu-

tion, with which he appears at present to be totally unacquainted, and which, in my opinion, does add but little to the boasted honour of Draycot-House, neither does it reflect much credit upon those who had the care of his education.

Such being the case,

*(Wellesley)*—And, as Draycot-House alone has caused thy vow,
*(Benett)*——To thee alone we look, supporter of our plough.

Farewel for the present,

*West-End, 12th 6th month*, 1818. H. HELME.

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## WILTS ELECTION.

THE following Gentlemen have already signified their willingness to be a Committee for the purpose of conducting Mr. Benett's interests in the approaching Election for the County of Wilts; they intend to meet from time to time, and every day during the Election, at the Office of their Secretary, Mr. Tinney, at Salisbury, to whom all communications on the subject are requested to be addressed.

Astley, J. D. Esq., *Notton House*
Ames, Mr., *Hindon*
Biggs, H. Esq., *Stockton*
Bingham, Rev. P., *Berwick St. John*
Blackmore, Rev. Richard, *Donhead*
Blandford, M. Dove, Esq., *Swallowcliff*
Blake, Thomas, Esq., *Stratford*
Bowle, Edward, Esq., *Idminston*
Bailey, James, Esq., *Downton*
Baden, Andrew, Esq., *Enford*
Boucher, W. Esq., *Salisbury*
Benson, Rev. E., *Close, Salisbury*
Bailey, John, Esq., *Redlinch*
Brown, Mr. Thomas, *Lower Upham*
Brodie, W. B. Esq., *Salisbury*
Calley, Thomas, Esq., *Burderop Park*
Candy, Mr. John, *Chicklade*
Cripps, Mr. Charles, *Swindon*
Church, Mr. Richard, *Albourne*
Champernown, William, Esq., *Calcot*
Douglas, Rev. William, *Close, Salisbury*
Dyke, William, Esq., *Chiseldon*
Duke, Rev. Edward, *Lake*
Eyre, Geo. Esq., *Warrens*
Everett, W. M. Esq., *Heytesbury*
Foyle, Rev. Edward, *Cholderton*
Foot, Henry, Esq., *Berwick St. John*
Farmer, Mr. William, *Swindon*
Forward, Mr. James, *Bemerton*
Ford, Henry, Esq., *Burdensball, Wilton*
Fleetwood, George, Esq., *Coomb Bisset*
Grove, Thomas, jun. Esq., *Fern*
Gold, Mr. Thomas, *Albourne*
Gaby, Ralph Hale, Esq., *Chippenham*
Gent, James, Esq., *Devizes*
Gilbert, Joseph, Esq., *Beechingstoke*
Grant, John, Esq., *Manningford*
Goodman, John, Esq., *Wilcot*
Grant, Mr. William, *Maddington*
Grove, Rev. W. F., *Melbury abbas*
Harding, William, Esq., *Swindon*
Hughes, Robert, Esq., *Salthorp*
Haward, Mr. John, *Wilsford*
Hughes, William, Esq., *Devizes*
Helliar, Rev. John, *Tollard Royal*
Helyar, William, Esq., *Sedghill*
Harding, Mr. William, *Fonthill*
Hayter, John, Esq., *Winterbourne Stoke*
Headley, Dr., *Devizes*
Hussey, John, Esq., *Salisbury*
Hartnell, Thomas, Esq., *Poulton*
Ingram, Charles, Esq., *Amesbury*
King, Thomas, Esq., *Alvediston*
King, Mr. Henry, *Chilmark*
Locke, Wadham, Esq., *Rowde Ford*
Lambert, Mr. Daniel, *Tisbury*
Legge, Arthur, Esq, *Christian Malford*
Larkam, Mr. R. B., *Teffont*
Mortimer, E. H. Esq., *Studley*, near *Trowbridge*
Meech, Thomas Luke, Esq., *Westbury*
Montgomery, R. Esq., *Hannington*
Newman, Mr. Edward, *Devizes*
Ogle, Rev. John, *Close, Salisbury*
Parker, Sir William, *Chicklade*
Phipps, Charles Lewis, Esq., *Chittoe*
Pinckney, Philip, Esq., *Wilsford*
Pooll, Messrs. H. B. and C., *Road*, near *Beckington*
Pole, Rev. Dr., *Barford*
Pinckney, R. Esq., *Berwick St. James*
Purnell, Mr. Joseph, *Amesbury*
Poore, E. D. Esq., *North Tidworth*
Poulton, Mr. W., *Broadleaze, Chicklade*

Phillips, John, Esq., *Mere*
Poulton, Mr. Joseph, *Cricklade*
Phelps, S. F. Esq., *Warminster*
Pierce, Stephen, Esq., *Wedhampton*
Rogers, Rev. Dr., *Bainscombe House, Marlborough*
Rogers, Mr. John, *Tisbury*
Rendall, Thomas, Esq., *Milston*
Raxworthy, Mr. William, *Upton Lovell*
Rooke, Henry, Esq., *Downton*
Salmon, William, Esq., *Devizes*
Sheppard Mr. John H., *Swindon*
Saunders, A. E. Esq., *Market Lavington*
Still, James C. Esq., *East Knoyle*
Swayne, T. Esq. *Steeple Langford*
Seagrim, William, Esq., *Wilton*
Swayne, John, Esq., *Steeple Langford*
Sheppard, Mr. James, *Burcombe*
Sutton, James, Esq., *Salisbury*
Toogood, Rev. Dr., *Milston*
Tylee, John, Esq., *Devizes*
Thring, William, Esq., *Wilton*
Temple, William, Esq., *Bishopstrow*
Tylee, Thomas, Esq., *Devizes*
Tuckey, Mr. Richard, *Haydon*
Trenchard, Rev. Dr., *Stanton House*
Tucker, Mr. Richard, *Tilshead*
Wyndham, William, Esq., *Dinton*
Warrener, G., Esq., *Salisbury*
Wells, Mr. James, *Allburne*
Wyndham, Wadham, Esq., *Salisbury*
Ward, John, Esq., *Market Lavington*
Webster, Rev. Mr., *Codford St. Mary*
Whitmarsh, R. P. Esq., *Wilton*
Washbourn, T. E. Esq., *Manningford*
Williams, J. jun. Esq., *Baden*
Whitchurch, S. Esq., *Salisbury*
Yetbury, J. W. Esq., *Belcomb Brook, near Bradford*
Young, John, Esq., *Chirton*

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN Mr. Benett first offered himself as a Candidate to represent this county, some peculiar circumstances induced me to inform him of the injurious reports concerning his religious principles. To which I received a very satisfactory reply, both as to *his own* faith and his liberality towards that of *others*.

The following words are part of Mr. Benett's answer:—"*I believe in God and in his revealed Will, and endeavour to make that will the rule of my faith and practice.*" "*As a Protestant Christian in a Protestant Country I will ever uphold the Rights of Conscience and religious Liberty to all.*"

The present malicious propagation of those reports calls for this justice from me.

*Devizes, June* 13, 1818. C. LUCAS.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I WAS last week induced to present to you my view of the pretensions of the Candidates for the county, solely by its appearing to me that one of them (Mr. Benett) had been most unfairly treated by a host of public writers, whose pens must surely have been *hired*, as the Candidate whom they recommended could not have been known to them, even personally, before the commencement of the present contest; and these prudent scribblers had carefully abstained from all discussion upon his public character and upon his merits as a represen-

tative for this county,—points which in fact were all we had to consider. They only way I can account for our total ignorance of how Mr. Wellesley has voted in Parliament is, that the newspapers have not room for lists of those vast majorities which vote away the public money, and which but too often abridge the freedom of Englishmen. He may certainly possess those virtues which adorn and endear a man in private life; his partisans on the present occasion say he does, and I am willing to concede that point to them; but it still remains to be proved that in the House of Commons Mr. Wellesley is not one of those numerous dumb puppets, whose motions are under the control of a member emphatically called the *Manager*. If Mr. W. be one of those unworthy members, he cannot surely now have the excuse of poverty to plead,—an excuse which it appears he himself deems sufficient, but which I certainly do not*.

Although, gentlemen, I deem it highly improper in any public writer to descant upon the private character of our Candidates, I have yet thought it my duty to make inquiries into that of Mr. Wellesley, (being previously acquainted with those of Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett;) and I have now great pleasure in saying, that I am certain Mr. W. is incapable of countenancing the gross attacks that have been made upon the private character of Mr. Benett, more especially those published within the last few days by a person signing himself *Titus Trueman*, who has the audacity now to pretend, at the close of so long a contest, that he has discovered, shocking to say, that Mr. Benett is an atheist, and has not attended church since he was Sheriff of the county, being ten years ago. The falsehood of this atrocious libel (the author of which I am informed is well known in the city of Salisbury) could most easily be disproved by myself and hundreds of others; but, thank God, such disproof is totally unnecessary; it is only to mention such a charge, and I am sure it will soon be scouted and spurned at by the generous freeholders of Wiltshire, who will the more readily rally round and support their well known friend and countryman. Indeed it is not to be doubted but that the infamous accusation will defeat its own object, and create friends for Mr. Benett where he had none before. That generous spirit, which ever incites Englishmen to take the part of those whom they suppose in a contest to be wronged and oppressed, and which spirit, to the honour of Englishmen, is their peculiar characteristic,

* In his speech at the Marlborough dinner, Mr. W. expressed it as his opinion, that the circumstances of a *poor man* rendered it almost imperative in *him* to accept the favour and patronage of Ministers, *i. e.* to become their menial and parliamentary puppet.

would, I doubt not, on the present occasion secure Mr. Benett's election, were not even his pretensions as a candidate far superior, as they unquestionably are, to those of his opponent Mr. Wellesley.

I cannot for a moment entertain a doubt of Mr. Benett's election, when I see that some of the most respectable gentlemen of the county have announced their intention to bring voters for him to poll, free of expense, from the populous hundreds of Dunworth, Mere, Warminster, Heytesbury, Branch and Dole, and Chalk; from the parish of Westbury, and its environs; from the town of Devizes and its vicinity; from the district of Downton, from Chilton, &c. &c.

*June* 13, 1818. A. B.

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WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

Nomination at Devizes, on the 18th of JUNE instant,

*The glorious Anniversary of the Battle of*

WATERLOO!

It is no less extraordinary than gratifying that the Day on which the illustrious

*DUKE OF WELLINGTON*

Obtained his most splendid Titles should be commemorated in this great and independent County by the

NOMINATION OF HIS NEPHEW

WILLIAM LONG WELLESLEY, Esq.

To be one of our Representatives in Parliament.

We cannot err in supporting the Man who has fought with that hero in the midst of some of those Battles which have saved our Country from Perdition.

We surely shall do right in electing this near Relative of the Noble Duke to be our Representative, who now nobly steps forward to rescue our Country from Tyranny.

*Stick close to the Question:—Wellesley and Independence!*

Hereafter for your Children's Children, or the disgraceful Slavery of Clubs and Quorum.

Let us then rally around him on the Day of Nomination, when it is earnestly hoped that the Friends of *Mr. Long Wellesley* will convince the World of their Loyalty and Independence by appearing in his Favour.

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*To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

IN THE COUNTY COURT.

FISHER *v.* BENETT.

"And the dirt came out."—Judges, ch. 3, v. 22.

GENTLEMEN,

IN a few days you will be called to witness something new *indeed* in "the Chronicles of Wiltshire;" you will be called

duct, the *public* conduct of Mr. Methuen. You have all done the same; you hate a man of a vacillating disposition. Now this *Veteran*, gentlemen, with a most astonishing degree of sagacity, comes forward and tells you that Titus Trueman did all this, because friend Paul would not advance him five guineas to do some work for him. This, nor all the manœuvres they may fall upon, shall never draw from me my real name. There are but three people in this county who know the author of the letters signed Titus Trueman, they are the only three that ever shall. I will not believe that any agent of Mr. Methuen's could write such a letter without his authority; and yet I cannot conceive how any man bearing the *appearance* of a gentleman, could give sanction to such a tale. To exercise a phrase I have seen used before, "he has got a wrong scent." I never had any dealings with him in my life; he knows nothing of me. He imagines himself in the House of Commons floundering about, catches at something, and is caught himself. His hands were never made for quill-driving, his poor head has no judgment to guide the leaders.—All the charges brought against him remain without reply, and he brings forward the five guinea story as an answer to all the arguments used against his political conduct (his *private* I held sacred); it is the winding up of all he has to say! In reply to all the charges, shiftings in and out, his backward and forward movements, he brings you this *five guinea* story! Can any thing be conceived more pitiful, more contemptible!—Yet this is the gentleman who is now a Candidate for your county. Mr. Methuen's business, instead of degrading himself by such a tale, should have answered my arguments, should have controverted my statements, but this he could not do, and therefore he brings forward this trumpery story to throw discredit on Titus Trueman.

It is objected to me that I am *insignificant*. Then why notice me? He called me, in his former letter, *contemptible*. I *proved* him to be so in the fullest sense of the word; and so convinced was he of it, that he has put his pen to sleep for these ten weeks, and now comes forward, under a supposition that his *new* name will strike that terror which his writings have failed to produce. I am not to be terrified with sounds, and I'll let him know it; he shall write better or he shall not write at all. I'll convince him of *my* insignificance, by reducing him to a cypher. He says I am a man of *common* education. What a pity that a man of his *un*common education should have written the worst piece of composition that has appeared in the county papers, ever since the contest began. He has done his best, and we must pity him, for no one applauds. With regard to my being a government spy,

there may be some truth in it; especially as those two gentlemen, Messrs. Oliver and Castles, are both united in my person; and, did I but possess his talents and *un*common education, Wilts would have to boast of three loggerheads as well as those counties which have made greater advances in learning and knowledge. But I can assure this luminary of the West, that I never felt much inclined to fulfil the functions of a spy. I farther assure him, that I was sitting in the midst of my friends when I received a letter by the carrier, containing the intelligence relative to the meeting between Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett's agent. After the apology Mr. Methuen had made, I did not believe it; nor was it till I came to town on Tuesday that I had my doubts satisfied on the subject. For this Mr. Methuen has never accounted to the freeholders; and for its being again mentioned, he is indebted to the officiousness of this veteran chief. Now that it has been brought before them again, I hope they will remember it, and refresh the memory of that gentleman when occasion serves. A man must be a fool from choice, that can read the last letter of Titus Trueman, and believe that he either lives in or near the city of Salisbury. But even if he did, I have the authority of the old gentleman of Swindon for saying, that "birth, parentage, education, and place of residence" have no influence on the truths I promulgate. But, gentlemen, I have business of more importance than Mr. Methuen or his man—I promised you a laugh; I shall not be able to address you again before the election, and therefore in my next shall give you something to amuse you while sitting in the booths.

The object of this letter was to place before you the situation in which Messrs. Benett and Fisher stand with regard to each other. I shall do it as concisely as possible, and faithfully too; for if Mr. Benett did actually behave to Mr. Fisher as he says that he did, there is no farmer in the county can consistently give him a vote. The unity and community that ought to subsist between them, should form a mutual guarantee against oppression. The poor creature of a writer, my friend *Veteran*, supposing that he knows me, brings forward a very violent charge against me, of having written a letter in favour of Mr. Benett, and against Mr. Wellesley. He means that *somebody* did such a thing; how does he prove that it was Titus Trueman? The fellow is mad. I request you to look back to my first letter; you will find what I said of Mr. Benett, and what I said of Mr. Wellesley; I most strenuously recommended them to your choice; I used all the little argument of which I am master, to bind you to them; I said all I could ay, and for which this unhappy driveller, then "the Wilt-

shire Freeholder," but now the *Veteran*, made use of the following language in commenting upon it :—"The county of Wilts is to look to her own immediate advantages in the more circumscribed, modest, and unassuming intelligence of Mr. Benett; his coolness of intellect, clearness of conception, and facility of delivery; his intimate and practical acquaintance with the soil, the produce, the poor-rates, the tythes, the paupers, and the gossips of his own immediate neighbourhood." He accuses me of attempting to form a *coalition* between them; I cannot quote all he says to prove the high opinion I entertained of Mr. Benett, and now he comes forward to tell you a piece of news, namely, that a man whom he supposes to be Titus Trueman formerly wrote a letter in favour of Mr. Benett. Ha! ha! Why I have written half-a-dozen. All the county knows it, you goose! And I am going now to shew you why I have ceased to write in his behalf;—I have told you why I wrote so long, I am now going to tell you why I could write no longer: but I defy all the men, women, and children,—all the agents, sub-agents,—all the hirelings of whatever description, in the employ of Mr. Benett, to prove that either by *word* or *letter*, by *assertion* or *insinuation*, *directly* or *indirectly*, I ever called in question the *talents*, or the *integrity*, the *character*, or the *conduct* of Mr. Long Wellesley. The reverse of this has been asserted by the man who styles himself a "*Veteran*;" he says he can prove it,—I challenge him. Gentlemen, it is one of the lies of the party; they cannot do without them. The foundation of their hope is falsehood and deceit. You have seen the person who styles himself the Moon-Raker, convicted of one falsehood by one writer; of two by another, and of misrepresentations without end. They not only write, but they canvass in falsehood. Look at the conduct of Mr. Benett, as communicated by a friend, and confirmed by Mr. Methuen himself.—Mr. Benett went to the house of a voter who had previously engaged his votes to Mr. Methuen and Mr. Wellesley. He pressed him earnestly to give *him* a vote; and on the honest freeholder telling him that he had engaged them both, what do you think he did?—He told the voter, "*That Mr. Methuen was secure, that he stood in no need of his vote, that he had much better give it to him* (Mr. B.) *and withdraw it from Mr. Methuen!*" Seduced by what he said, the unsuspecting yeoman consented. But this was not enough for Mr. Benett, he does not do things by halves; stung by remorse at the baseness of his conduct to a *native* and a *resident*, he has another attempt at deception, and this was to induce the same man *to withdraw his vote from Mr. Wellesley, and give it to Mr. Methuen to make some amends for the one of which he had deprived him.* But it failed, and

has had this good effect; it convinced the man so completely of his baseness, that the former vote is *restored to Mr. Methuen*, and the other *confirmed* to *Mr. Wellesley*. Will you ever support a man that can be guilty of such consummate baseness? I think not, gentlemen. Such conduct makes me blush for my having recommended to your support such a man as Mr. Benett, or that there should be found men base enough to advocate his cause.—The Old Moon-Raker will probably tell you that all this was done for the honour of his "*true Wiltshire family*." What a scandalous set!

A writer, under the signature of A. B. and who, a correspondent says, is the Old Moon-Raker, feels *shocked* (ha! ha!) that any person should suspect the *religion* of Mr. Benett. I do not stand alone in this instance. Did he never hear of a reverend friend denouncing his tenets, and charging him with errors which the law considers crimes? Even Mr. Lucas, with whose timely *act of justice*, he heads his letter, had his doubts, and tells you that a great many more had doubts as well as himself. And how were good Mr. Lucas's doubts removed? By a confession that no *deist* would hesitate one moment to give. On this subject I shall address you again. At present I would only ask, does Mr. Benett believe "*that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God?*"—Does Mr. B. believe that "*there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one?*" Does he believe that *Jesus Christ is God over all blessed for ever?* Does he believe that he was *crucified for the sins of mankind?* These are the questions that Mr. Lucas ought to have put. I am too well acquainted with their deistical evasions to be soon satisfied with Mr. Lucas's rubbish; and until Mr. Benett most satisfactorily removes the difficulty, there is not a man, a father, a Christian, or minister amongst you that can give him a vote, without violating your duty to God, your country, and posterity. But against all this, this gentleman, that slippery sophister the Moon-Raker, tells you that the person making the objection is *well known*—not impossible; but he is not known to "The Moon-Raker," and he never will, that he may rest assured. It is of no consequence to him, it is of infinitely less to me; the truths I have asserted have had this effect; I rejoice in it, nor shall it be matter of regret, should I even live to the *very advanced age* of the Moon-Raker, that in my earlier years I was enabled to contribute to the downfall of that tower which local despotism had reared, and to the erection of that temple which freemen had consecrated. Mr. Benett thinks it an honour to be *well known*. Why should I think it a disgrace to be well known also? There is one thing, gentlemen, I am *not known*, for I never

rendered wretched the abodes of peace and happiness, by the ruin of a poor man's child; "nor did I ever rouse to resentment the feelings of an affectionate brother, by the seduction and abandonment of a beloved sister!" They talk of "*rods in pickle*," I have one for "The Moon-Raker," and O! but it's a wapper!——I am Gentlemen, your faithful friend,

TITUS TRUEMAN.

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Mr. Editor—I was so pleased with the observation of the old woman who walked down the Blue-boar-row (as related by one of your correspondents), that I cannot resist holding a little converse with her; particularly as her wish fully meets my own, and is certainly the prevailing wish throughout the county, *viz.* "That she hoped no atheist would ever represent it."

To whom *she* refers, I am not bound even to guess; probably she herself does not know; and still more probable, that she does not understand the term. I own I am strongly sceptical of the possible existence of such a character; it is true I have heard and read of created beings, who have professed and lived, to outward appearance, as atheists, but that they have died believers! shewing clearly, that some horrid presumption, pride, opposing temper, display of talent, arguing for the sake of argument, or at best some unworthy motive, prompted them to give their words the lie to their hearts. It would carry me beyond my intended boundary to enumerate the various anecdotes I have met with of Hume, Voltaire, and others; but I cannot forbear recounting (for the satisfaction of the old lady in the Blue-boar-row) two very forcible ones, particularly as it concerned old women like herself, Hume's mother and nurse. The former, it appears, was a religious character, and at first greatly shocked at the principles her son had adopted; but, in course of time, she became his convert. Previous to her dissolution, she grew restless, discontented, and melancholy; she felt the want of that support which the Christian religion so amply affords, but was too far lost in the labyrinth of infidelity to extricate herself, or to repair to the fountain of living waters. Without renouncing the heresy effected by the power of her son's influence, she required his presence to alleviate her indescribable suffering; this account greatly disturbed him, and he set off to Scotland to see her; but, ere he reached it, she had breathed her last; and died with all the horrors of expecting *annihilation*. What an awful thought!! How was *her* death-bed embittered by this deplorable schism. A wretch who can profess it, is not worthy to live, much less to be elected as a representative of the county of Wilts;—a county by no means standing in the back ground, in its religious views, or

its co-operating practical systems. The anecdote referring to the nurse, is simply this; after the death of Hume, she was applied to, to attend on another gentleman; she inquired, what religion he professed, for that if he was of the same way of thinking with her late master, she would not engage in his service for all that could be offered her, since she could never forget the misery of his declining days and dying hours. Now, this good old nurse would have formed a happy trio with the old woman in the Blue-boar-row, and myself;—we would use our strenuous efforts to extirpate all *such* beings from the face of the earth, or, at any rate, haunt them from society; and, as I have taken so much pains for *her* satisfaction, I entreat that she will send me the name of the person she alluded to (if she knows it) through your agreeable communicative medium, and *I* will say and write all I can against him.

Another of your correspondents informs us, that Mr. Benett has not been seen in a church these ten years; if this were true, I should be sadly grieved; but I know it to be false, for I saw him myself, *with my own eyes*, within these six months, on that very day on which a *Native* of the county says "he was particularly preached at;" an assertion that somewhat astonished me. I am a constant, and, I hope, an attentive hearer, of the preacher of that day; and, I confess, *I* thought the sermon very generally serving to illuminate the ignorant, and settle the faith of the doubtful; and certainly most appropriately delivered, when the church was crowded with strangers of all ages and denominations; and I heard the reverend divine himself declare, "that he had no personal allusion whatever, when he preached that discourse; or, at that time, any acquaintance with the gentleman against whom it was said to be levelled."

Now, to return to the old woman, who, *it is possible*, may be an intelligent and well-informed person; will she have the kindness to state to me the period when Mr. Long Wellesley was seen at church? I can have *no doubt* but that *he* is a regular attendant on public worship; exhibiting a becoming, serious, and devout deportment; and if she will tell me where he is to be seen performing his religious duties, I shall not regard any distance to gratify myself with the sight.

> "Lord, how delightful 'tis to see
> A whole assembly worship thee!"

I have heard that Mr. Benett was once attacked on being somewhat of an atheist, which *he* most strongly and positively denied. Now, Christianity might be justified in *doubting* the assertion of a monster of infidelity, and humanely ascribe it to a woeful estrangement of mental reason; but who will *dare* dispute the avowal of a *believer?* Such has Mr. Benett

declared himself; and who will dare wrest the judgment from the searcher of all hearts?

Mr. Benett has, it seems, endowed a chapel, and we may charitably draw this inference—that if he is not himself a constant attendant on public worship, he encourages it in others; and had he had the most remote objection to it, would he have transmitted such a building to his posterity? Would he not rather have built a theatre, a temple to the Olympii, a menagerie, &c. &c. for their recreation and amusement?

I am well acquainted with a very sensible man, who seldom enters a church or any public place of worship, yet I know that he applies a part of every day, and a considerable portion of the sabbath to private devotion. I am myself most fully persuaded of the divine ordination, and necessity of assembling congregations; yet shall *I* presume to judge *his* preference of private communion with his Creator? or dare to consider *his* prayers and thanksgivings less acceptable than my own?

One observation more, and I have done:—Report states Mr. Long Wellesley to be a profane person, seldom speaking without an oath, and never troubling himself with *any* religious opinions. This (you will perceive by referring to a former part of my letter), I consider as infamous a slander as that which was attempted to be passed on Mr. Benett; but the query arising in my mind is, whether an understanding Christian, profaning the sabbath, disobeying the express commands of God, and living, to all appearance, without the slightest reverence, fear, or love, of the Almighty, or of practical religion, is not in greater danger than the atheist? On what grounds Mr. Benett and Mr. Long Wellesley rest their faith, a hereafter must determine.

With my regards to the old woman walking down the Bluebous-row, who will be pleased in having excited so much sympathy, I style myself, Mr. Editor,

*Devizes, June 14th*, 1818. A MILD INQUIRER.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

SINCE I first presented myself to your notice, soliciting the honour of representing you in the ensuing Parliament, I have made every exertion in my power to pay my personal respects to each of you individually. I have not been indolent in my progresses through the county, nor have I intentionally omitted to perform my duty towards a single freeholder. But the undertaking was so great, that I might have ignorantly omitted to wait on some freeholders, and even might not have visited some important districts in the

county. I trust that no freeholder will think himself intentionally overlooked. An unsolicited vote will be doubly flattering to me, as it will flow only from that zealous regard to the independence of the county (the great principle on which I wish my cause to rest), which is naturally dear to every freeholder. I trust that, at a very early day, that principle will be triumphant. The election will no sooner have terminated, than I shall undertake the pleasing task of waiting again upon all the freeholders, gratefully to thank those who shall have supported me by their votes; and if I shall be elected your Representative, respectfully to my other constituents, whom I shall hope never to consider in any other light than as my personal friends.

I remain ever, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

*Pythouse, June* 17. JOHN BENETT.

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*Marlborough, June* 13, 1818.

At a meeting of the committee for the purpose of conducting the interests of John Benett, Esq. in the approaching election for the county of Wilts, resident in this town and neighbourhood, held at Marlborough, this day;

*The Worshipful the Mayor of Marlborough in the chair:*

*It is resolved*—That the committee now assembled will use their best exertions to secure the independence of the county, by giving their suffrages and support to John Benett, Esq. at the ensuing election for the county of Wilts.

That they will respectively attend the day of nomination, and the day of election, free of all expense to that gentleman.

That this meeting be adjourned till Tuesday evening next, at the Angel Inn, at Marlborough, at six o'clock.

JOHN WENTWORTH, *Chairman.*

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

Sir,—After reading the two letters of "A Native," and "Neither here nor there," in the Salisbury Journal of this day, some of your readers may be led to suppose that I am the author of the letters of the Old Moon-Raker. I candidly confess I do not feel the ability to write as the Moon-Raker has done; and, if I did, I am sure I should not have had the inclination so to have written: for, from the moment the respective Candidates announced their intention of offering themselves to the consideration of the freeholders of Wiltshire, I objected to the friends of one party having recourse to squibs, reflecting on either of the other party or their adherents. Had I not *in limine* so objected, I will

honestly tell you, Sir, that I believe much of the dirt which has been thrown at, and much of the bitterness and gall which has been shewn to Mr. Benett and his friends, by one of your ablest correspondents, would have been spared. I am sure a good cause needs not support by such factitious aid. I consider Mr. Benett's cause that of the independence of the county of Wilts—a good cause; and I hope it will succeed: but I have not a shadow of ill-will towards either of the other Candidates. I now distinctly avow, that I am not the author of the letters signed the Old Moon-Raker, or either of them. I do more, and say—I never saw one of them but in print, and that several of them I have as yet never read: and, to conclude, I do not know who the author is, farther than from the insinuations of the newspapers.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

*Shaftesbury, June* 15. CHAS. BOWLES.

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"Let the gall'd jade wince, *our* withers are unwrung."

## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

THEM is the words as I admires, the nights as I goes to see Kean upon his high ropes at Drury Lane; 'tis what I conceits to be plain sense, and plain English—and, what's more to the purpose, 'tis what I *understands*: and now I hopes they 'll cheer *thy* old heart; for, though I says it, who am no small blackguard *myself*, to be sure if there isn't enough to make the shilling gallery hiss like mad, and any mother's son of a waterman, or Jarvy in Lunnun, blush double-dyed scarlet; not that I means to run from my word, and, as I *said* I 'd be thy second, I won't fight shy, that's what I won't. But, to be sure, man, 'tis to be hoped thy back's something of the broadest; seeing 'thave got to bear thy own sins and Toby's to boot; not that I thinks you needs be shame-faced about it, if you *did* kiss a pretty girl in the street—the Lord help the wicked, if we was *all* to be libelled as has done the like. Sister, too, takes your part, and says, (prinking all the time in the glass), "Every body knows as "how we Salisbury lasses is *so* tempting—flesh and blood "can't withstand us!"

"Every dog has his day;" so now, Mr. Moon-Raker, your's and mine's a coming; and if they thinks as how there is but one man as dares speak up for Benett, how they *will* stare and funk when they sees the *true* blue, the county blue and Benett's scarlet, twisted in *true-love* knots—besetting and facing them whichever way they turns to 'scape—north, south, east, or west—from above, from below—from the right, from the left! That will be the *Pythouse mixture*

with a vengeance, and such as will make their hearts quake! Then the *white feathers* will shew themselves. Then we'll see, on Wellesley's side, who'll dare stand up to his man! Huzza! huzza! Tosspot and the Old Moon-Raker for ever! Fine times these, as are coming, hey, my old boy? Then how proud we shall be, if you a'nt with me already, as I thinks you must, if you see that genteel address, signed Tobias, as praises me; and *I glories in the praise of all good men.* He says as how Tosspot 's a God-send; being as how he falls asleep over old Titus;—as *must* be true, seeing as how, he says his own self, he suspects as much, the weather being so damned hot, and *he* so cursed stupid. I knows what should be done, if I stood inhis shoes, as thank God I *don't*—for 'tis no manner of harm to go on spitting and spewing poison without a little sugar, to make it go down the red-lane glib, and relishing like:—so, if I was he, or another of the same fry, I'd *advertise* after this here fashion:

## WILTS ELECTION.--SCANDAL WANTED.

Whereas, John Fisher's, and all other lies, have been spread and reported, turned and twisted in every possible way, till they are clear worn out; and whereas we are determined to support the good new fashion of attacking *private* character, to forward the choice of a *public* one, this is to give notice, that any coachman discharged for drunkenness from the service of John Benett, or his father, within the last fifty years, or any kitchen-wench for stealing grease, or the like, shall, by stating their grievances, receive due encouragement from Titus Trueman, My Old Heart, The Native, or either of the Clerical agents.

N. B. The more vulgar and indecent the stile, the better, and the more improbable and less to the purpose, the same.

What do'st think of that notion, Mr. Moon-Raker, you sees how cute I can be, and may thank *your stars* I'm on thy side; and now, that I mayn't fall into the same mistake as Titus, I'll e'en end whilst my reader's eyes is still open, and answer Tobias' question next time; in the time being, my news from Ireland is, as how, if any family was ever all born with silver spoons in their mouths, the Colleys was that same. This youngster spit *his* out, however, as soon as ever he were married, and now he is so *notorious* to every *jew* in Lunnun, that he can't borrow a fraction from any one of 'em, so if the landlords and the like, ever is payed, Madam's traps and gewgaws must fly for't, if they isn't gone already.

TOBY TOSSPOT.

## *To the Old Moon Raker.*

" Thy May of life
" Is fall'n into the sear: the yellow leaf
" And that which should accompany old age,
" As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,"
Thou " must not look to have, but in their stead
" Curses" both " loud and deep!"———

This is what you have a just right to expect from the way in which you have attempted to deprive the Freeholders of Wilts of their elective franchise; the way in which you have sought to oppress whoever came within the vortex of your profession; and especially from the mean, unmanly, disingenuous way in which you have asserted and supported the designs of a man upon the county, who, in his evidence before the House of Lords, declared that *mechanics* and *labourers need not live better than pigs!*

What has made you change your name, or rather take one in addition to the old? You imagine, like the Spaniards, that you will derive respectability from its length, and your arguments require force from its variations. Absurd *Old Man!* You've also commenced farmer, under the well known name of A. B. Had you added C. to it, we might have conjectured with some degree of certainty that you had once in your life seen the alphabet! This Election has been an eventful period for you. You have been all trades and all professions. Do you find it pretty profitable? It's very honourable! You never had so many attendants in your life as when going down Catherine-street, but that's nothing to what you will have: your cause is so *popular*, and you conduct *every* cause with such attention to circumstances, that it is impossible you should not be distinguished and handsomely rewarded. When a man is constantly in the practice of treating with scorn and contempt the " common feelings of mankind," he must expect that some day they will remember his kindness. " The poor shall not always be forgotten;" nor ought *you*, in justice, for advocating their oppressor's cause, and that by the basest means. Ought you to be surprised that the public feeling is against you? Ought you not rather to be pleased? You are quite shock'd that Mr. Benett's *religion* should be called in question. Your sensibilities are very strong on some occasions; I dare say that you would have been equally shocked had they reflected upon your *own!!* Ha! ha! How pious you grow by canvassing; how *moral* by *writing!* Quite hurt at the idea of a letter being sent to Mr. Timbrell that should reflect on Mr. Everett! I know you don't like letters, but this of Pike's was almost as bad as your own; there's recantation here too.—O, no! I should have said an *avowal.* Mr. Pike recants

nothing. He might safely swear that he *never wrote the letter*, because *he can't write*; nor was he threatened on account of Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett, but he was threatened on account of Mr. Benett, or else what are we to understand by Thos. Pike's phrase "no threats were used to me on the occasion:" what occasion? why the man was sent for, and asked, who he meant to vote for? Having told he is not threatened; O! no; that wasn't the right way to go to work: not plump and plain: there would have been no moon-raking in that; there would have been no room for your learned interpretations; but he gets a *gentle* hint, that the Governor was a little displeased that one of his work-people should have more brains than himself, and vote for Mr. Wellesley, while he had been simple enough to give his to Mr. Benett. The man, therefore, without any threat, and after having had a good tuck out, to let him judge how pleased his master was at his giving his vote to Mr. Wellesley, sends a letter to tell Mr. W.'s agent that he shall be turned out of his employ if he did not vote for Mr. Benett. This puts master Everett, (who is one of the Club men, the same club that black-balled the Moon-Raker and his two friends; an evidence that there are some Gentlemen among them) to his shifts; sends for Pike, and, after a little introductory remark, speaks of the disgrace that will be brought on himself, and "the honour of his true Wiltshire family," if that letter is not contradicted. Pike stands steady to his text. Everett plays the Jesuit, and tells him how he may save his own conscience and his master's credit; "*As I only spake to you of Benett* (says Mr. Everett) *you may safely declare, that I did not speak to you of Methuen and Benett, and, as a friend wrote the letter for you, you may securely say, that you did not write it yourself!*" Aha! here was a hint for the devil to take! Under such injunctions the second letter was written, and you, my aged Sir, have, of such truly respectable materials composed your last letter; still from Swindon, and false and foolish like all your other former ones! Give up Swindon now; why your friend says that you live at Shaftesbury. You are "Mungo here, Mungo there, Mungo every where!" But it won't do; the honour of being the Moon-Raker shall be exclusively your own; mine the felicity of keeping you employed.

I am going to my own, or else I'd say something to you about the Devizes dinner; this, with what remains unnoticed in your productions, shall have the utmost attention next week. I am glad to find that they were *harmonious* as usual: that Tom Calley challenged the room; and that my friend Slade gote a broken nose; the Mayor knocked down; and the devil to pay with the rest. You should have been there. There is so much grace and gravity thrown over your exterior that

you might have charmed them into milder habits! You've got a great many committee men, and what a lot of 'squires! Cost something, no doubt, to get them from the Herald's office: or did you make them all in your own? Some of them are in France! How do they attend? Do you lend them your own Swindon poney, or do they advise by proxy? I thought you had an objection to non-*residents!*

You are really growing very *fidgity*. You complained most bitterly of bills having been posted upon the walls about you: now you tell every body to read them!—conveying a hint that you don't care for the contents. That might have done very well, but then, man alive, you should never have thrown yourself ito a passion, for that let the cat out of the bag. I told you, you should write again, I've made you do it: I've been tender with you this time, because you are growing civil. Do you go to the *nomination* at Devizes? I'd keep in the midst if I were you; hold up both your hands, *two* you know are better than *one*, John may stand in need of them, and, after all, you'll lose it.

MY OLD HEART.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—The reception I met with at the nomination from so large and so respectable a body of freeholders, while it calls forth the fullest expression of gratitude, gives me the strongest confidence, as to the result of that contest in which I am at present involved.

The unanimous kindness and attention with which I was honoured, and the flattering approbation with which I was heard, amid the clamour of contending parties, makes it a gratifying and absolute duty to return thanks individually to every man present, for his conduct to me on that occasion.

The shew of hands has most amply satisfied me that the county at large has admitted the validity of my pretensions, and that it has done me only the justice of believing that the opposite reports, of coalition with the other Candidates, are equally void of foundation.

I have now only to request your attendance, on the day of Election, at Wilton, and to express my earnest hope that my friends will continue their exertions, in order to place my success beyond the possibility of doubt, or the effect of accidents.——I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen, your faithful and obliged servant,

PAUL METHUEN.

*Corsham House, June* 19, 1818.

## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—I hasten to express my warmest thanks to you for the almost unanimous support which you have given me on this day. Your exertions for the preservation of the independence of the county of Wilts must be crowned with success.

The endeavours of those who would make our independent county resemble a mere borough interest, and become the appendage of a single family, cannot avail against the sense of the freeholders, ardently and generally expressed at this Nomination. My friends will persevere, during a few days more, and our triumph will then be completed, by the only constitutional mode of deciding such a contest as we are engaged in— a majority of votes on the Sheriff's Poll.

Those freeholders, whom, after all my personal exertions, I have not been able to wait upon, will, I trust, attribute that circumstance to the right cause, the want of time, and will not withhold their support from me on that account. After the election, I shall, with pleasure, discharge that duty, and all others which it may be incumbent on me to perform.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very faithful and devoted servant,

JOHN BENETT.

*Devizes, June* 18, 1818.

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## *To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomen, and Freeholders in general of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—The Eighteenth of June, so memorable in the annals of the world, and honourable to my family, will, in the records of this county, prove, I trust, a day of happy prospect; and one of distinction to myself.

As a friend to the free exercise of the suffrages of the freeholder—"*unbiassed*,"—I protest most solemnly against the unconstitutional proceeding of permitting the assemblage, in military order, of troops of Yeomanry Cavalry (though not in uniform,) armed with heavy sticks.

It was with the most sincere regret, that, at the head of this corps, I saw a private friend, though political enemy—a Candidate for a seat in Parliament—and a magistrate.—Is this the way to conciliate the affections of the electors? This novel mode of advocating the cause of a Candidate, put in nomination, can alone have occasioned the High Sheriff, (whose honour and impartiality no one can doubt) not to have declared the public voice to be in favour of Mr. Methuen and myself.

The tumult of this day's proceeding must be painful to the recollection of all persons, who, upon such occasions, are advocates for calm discussion.

It however gives me the most sincere gratification to know, that which must have been universally apparent to all assembled at Devizes,—that the disorder arose from those who wore Mr. Benett's colours, and from no others.

I most seriously regret the accident which befel Mr. Benett the preceding evening, and I boldly take the liberty to implore of every person who thinks favourably of me, to act respectfully, to hear patiently, and fairly to consider all that Mr. Benett, at any period of the ensuing contest, may think fit to address to the freeholders.

Whatever may be the conduct of my opponent, I shall, upon all occasions, conduct myself with the utmost temper and moderation.

With Mr. Methuen I divide the public opinion, as well as a vast majority of the commercial and agricultural interest of the county;—with one exception I find inserted in the list of those, who have promised Mr. Methuen or myself support, the descendants of gentlemen who for more than half a century represented in Parliament this great county.

I am honoured by the support of whole families who were conspicuous in the successful efforts they made to preserve the independence of the county during the glorious contest of 1772.

Is it therefore "*idle vanity*," which, under such auspicious circumstances, leads me to continue the contest? Is it with such support as this "*my long purse*" can have any weight? Or is a combination of a newly-constituted magisterial authority to take from its own bodyan individual possessing "*local information*," whose agricultural knowledge is to be considered a sufficient passport to your favour?

I sincerely wish well to Mr. Methuen, but that gentleman and myself have in no way coalesced.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,

*Devizes, June* 18, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

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## *To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomen, and Freeholders in general of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—The avowed intention of Mr. Benett, in his first address to the freeholders of the county, of personally renewing his request to you not till after a dissolution of Parliament, induced me to believe that that gentleman intended to adopt the usual course of canvassing.

By this assertion, he was, in his personal canvass, advanced more than a fortnight, before I was enabled to quit my duties in Parliament.

I have adhered to the promise I made you of endeavouring to pay my respects to all the freeholders in the county; and if I should not have succeeded in presenting myself to all, individually, I trust they will not consider it to have arisen from inattention or neglect, but from circumstances which were not within my control.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, June* 20, 1818.

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*To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

In the report of Mr. Benett's dinner at Devizes in your Journal of Monday last, that gentleman remarked in a speech which he made on the occasion, "that proposals had been made to him, by me, on the part of Mr. Wellesley, to decide the depending contest by a reference to the professional agents of the respective Candidates; to which I had stated that Mr. Methuen had assented."

I took an opportunity yesterday, previous to the Nomination, to mention to Mr. Benett, that he laboured under a mistake respecting Mr. Methuen, and Mr. Benett promised to rectify the error; but as he failed to do so at the Nomination, probably from the confusion and noise which prevailed, I think it right to make known thus publicly, that on my mentioning Mr. Wellesley's proposal to Mr. Methuen, that gentleman said, he was desirous of preserving the peace of the county, and would sanction what I agreed to on his behalf, provided it met with the general approbation of those who honoured him with their support, but as Mr. Benett declined giving an answer to the proposal, on the day it was made, I did not commit Mr. Methuen or his friends, by either approving or disapproving the measure, and therefore Mr. Benett had no authority from me to declare Mr. Methuen's assent.

In fact there were two propositions made by me on behalf of Mr. Wellesley—one was, that all the three Candidates should decide the contest without an appeal to a poll, by the method stated in Mr. Benett's speech;—and the other was, to leave Mr. Methuen out of the question, and consider him as an unopposed Candidate, and to let the contest and expense terminate by the reference of Mr. Benett's and Mr.

Wellesley's votes to the investigation of mutual friends. It is but fair to add, that these proposals were made by Mr. Wellesley in consequence of a rumour set afloat, that he wished to injure Mr. Benett, by putting him to every possible expense, and to convince that gentleman and his friends to the contrary. I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

*Monkton Farleigh, 19th June*, 1818. J. LONG.

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## *To William Long Wellesley, Esq.*

SIR,—I am an independent freeholder, and 'till very lately have taken but little interest in the impending contest for the county; it is true that I have read the various advertisements and squibs which have from time to time been sent forth to the public by the advocates of each party, and though some few may have disgusted me, in general I have derived from them considerable amusement. Totally unmoved by them myself, I have made no promise of my votes, but have always determined to attend at the election, and to give my feeble support to the two Candidates whom I might then think the most worthy. I must now, Sir, honestly tell you that the reports of the past week, if they be true, (and I trust they are not wholly so,) have produced in my mind an impression very unfavourable to you. I have heard that disgraceful scenes of tumult have taken place at Devizes, at Trowbridge, and at Salisbury—that at the latter place, on Tuesday last, *you* paraded the streets at the head of a mob, and that Mr. Benett was insulted there on a subsequent day. If, Sir, these accounts be true, and you have, *in the least*, given encouragement to such disorderly conduct, *I will not vote for you*. I am told that there are many hundreds, on whose support you might have fairly reckoned, which will now be withdrawn if such disgraceful scenes are suffered to continue. I address this to you, Sir, as a well-wisher to your cause; to you, Sir, who not eighteen months since, voted for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, and for the suppression of all tumults and disorderly meetings. Deign, Sir, to take the advice of a friend, who is anxious that you should not disgrace yourself by rousing and bringing into action the worst passions of mankind. To the next mob that may assemble around you say, that however much you may be gratified by their zeal and attachment to your cause, yet that riot and disturbance must make it desperate. Appeal to their good and generous feelings, Sir, (and what *true-born Briton* is here devoid of such feelings?) tell them that it is no proof of manliness and courage for hundreds to assault an unprotected individual, that they are *Britons!*

*honourable, bold, and brave—the conquerors of Frenchmen, —not the murderers of Englishmen.*

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

A FRIEND TO PEACE, HARMONY, AND GOODWILL.

*Warminster, June* 19, 1818.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM a brother freeholder, perfectly independent, and a warm supporter of the rule which has always prevailed in this county, of not promising my vote and interest till the sense of the county has been ascertained by means of a day of nomination. I have not deviated from this rule in the present instance, nor have I promised my vote to either of the Candidates. I attended at the Nomination on Thursday last with a determination of holding up my hand in favour of the Candidate who should be considered best qualified for the situation, and who should appear to have the general sense of the freeholders. When I entered the town of Devizes, which was not till the Sheriff with the respective Candidates had left the Bear to take possession of the market place, I was forcibly struck with the ascendancy which the party espousing Mr. Benett's cause appeared to have over the friends of the other Candidates, and, at the same time, as a freeholder, perfectly independent, I could not but feel indignant at the conduct of those who hoisted the colours of Mr. Long Wellesley, and appeared to espouse his cause. Such a scene of riot and confusion was a disgrace to our county; was never equalled at the Westminster election, or any other, where the assemblage of persons was much greater; and would disgrace even Saint Giles's, or the market of Billingsgate. The effect cannot serve any Candidate, but must (as has been the case at Westminster) favour the candidate who is meant by the measure to be injured.—These disgraceful proceedings, however, would not have influenced my vote against the Candidate who was favoured with the good wishes of persons of this disorderly description; but when, on inquiry, I found that the qualifications of Mr. Long Wellesley did not entitle him to the support of the freeholders at large, I thought it right at once to decide, as my countrymen appeared almost unanimously to do, in favour of Mr. Benett, and that decision shall be followed up by giving to him not only a plumper on the day of election, but all the interest and support I can muster shall be coupled with it. Mr. Benett does not expect this of me, for I know he has reckoned on my opposing him. The Rev. Mr. Awdry who is my friend, and who I saw with

Mr. Wellesley's friends at Devizes, will be disappointed, because I know he has included me in the list of that gentleman's staunch supporters. Recollect, gentlemen, I am not a member for any club, I am no great man, nor am I rich, but I am independent, and a man of character, the friend of the people; and if that which has been urged in the various placards which I have seen was correct, that in voting for Mr. Benett I should be giving support to the regulations of any particular club or society, who would dare to name the members for this county, I would lend my hand and exhaust my purse to frustrate that gentleman's election; I feel the contrary to be the case, from what I witnessed at Devizes; and in supporting Mr. Benett I know I shall support the independence of the county, and go in unison with the majority of the freeholders, as well those who are wealthy as those whose situations in life are humble, and amongst the latter I wish upon all occasions to be included, for I am proud to call the tradesman and mechanic my friends; and I am delighted when I see that the vote of a small freeholder has the same effect as that of a freeholder who is blessed with a magnificent fortune and occupying a splendid mansion. The election of Mr. Benett I am sure is certain, and equally certain am I that it will be the result of that independence which hitherto has existed in this county, and which I trust will exist to the end of time.——I repeat, gentlemen, that I am

AN INDEPENDENT FREEHOLDER.

*June* 19, 1818.

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*Committee Room, White Hart Inn, Salisbury, June* 20, 1818.

At a Meeting of the Central Committee, assembled this day, for the purpose of securing the return of JOHN BENETT, Esq. as one of the representatives in Parliament for this county;

WILLIAM WYNDHAM, Esq. in the Chair;

*It was resolved*, That this meeting congratulates the county of Wilts on the sure and certain hope of Mr. Benett's ultimate success, so decidedly manifested by the very numerous and respectable tokens of support which he so spontaneously received on Thursday last, at Devizes; being assured, that his long and general experience—his discriminating judgment and talents—his known loyalty and independence—his inflexible integrity, and his strong attachment to the interests and prosperity of this county (the place of his nativity and residence) render him peculiarly qualified to fill the high and honorable station to which he has aspired.

*Resolved*, That we perceive, with the strongest emotions of regret, that attempts have been made to prejudice the minds of

the lower classes of society, by the publicity given to false and obnoxious writings, and the circulation of inflammatory handbills, which have already produced acts of violence, and can only ultimately lead to the commission of injury to the persons and property of all parties, and tend to demoralize the minds of the hitherto industrious poor, even after this contest shall have been determined.

*Resolved*, That we will daily and diligently use all honorable and legitimate means, both collectively and individually, to secure the return of Mr. Benett; and most earnestly exhort his friends (until the poll be closed) as much as possible, to devote their whole time, their industry, and their zeal, to the glorious cause of independence.

*Resolved*, That this meeting be adjourned until Monday next.

WILLIAM WYNDHAM.

The Chairman having left the chair, it was *resolved*, that thanks be given to him for his zealous and able conduct.

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## WILTS ELECTION.

THE friends of Mr. Benett, who so nobly supported him at the nomination at Devizes on Thursday last, together with all others in the independent interest, are most earnestly requested to assemble on Wednesday morning next, on Mr. Benett's ground, near the hustings, about three miles from Salisbury, on the Devizes road, again to aid and support the glorious cause, as a shew of hands is again to be proposed.

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## *To the Independent Electors of Wilts.*

AFTER all the acrimonious verbiage which has now for weeks marked the progress of the present struggle, with submission, I venture one word by way of appeal, not to the integrity (for that I will not doubt), but to the pride and spirit of the freeholders of Wiltshire.

Electors! you have many most meritorious, most respectable gentlemen born amongst you, educated in the midst of you, I may say identified with you—but they are unfortunately deterred from offering themselves to your honourable notice by the torrent of expense attending a contested election. But will you for this, I ask, suffer the honour of your county to be tarnished by delegating its important interests to the hands of a *stranger*, whose only pretensions to your favour are founded on the *accidental* acquisition, by marriage, of a few estates in your county? Will you allow the world to say of you, that Wiltshire is *too small* to find a gentleman *of her own* fit to be the guardian of her privileges in Parliament? No! Electors! in

the present dearth of Candidates, look rather again to Corsham, to your old representative, who *has* given you proofs of his zeal in upholding your rights, and defending your pockets from the grasp of profusion.——And if you can think that Mr. Benett's zealous endeavours for the welfare of his native county, as a magistrate and an agriculturist, give him any title to your favourable consideration *out of Parliament*, it will surely not be deemed too much to put his professions for a while to the test in the honourable, nay laborious and painful anxiety which he has displayed to serve you *in it*. And, recollect, that should he even fall short of your expectations in the high trust reposed in him, the staff of power will, in human probability, soon again revert to yourselves, at the death of our very aged and venerable Monarch.

A WELL-WISHER TO THE COUNTY.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I BELIEVE your feelings in general are so perfectly in harmony with my own on the subject of returning our members, that any further observations on the propriety, the absolute necessity of upholding the respectability and honour of the county, by electing Mr. Benett, would be a work of supererogation—yet, as that "*honest*" fellow the Clothier has laboured, with all the bombast of a *village school-master*, to mislead you, I beg leave to call your attention to his last *precious* production, which will prove that *his* labours are founded in malice and uncharitableness.

After stating to you, *by way of swelling his own importance*, that he had sent off "large orders," which, by the bye, can be but little connected with the Wiltshire election, he palavers in an ungrammatical and almost unintelligible jargon about the respect in which *he* holds the magistrates of the county; and in his next paragraph he belies his assertion by grossly insulting them, accusing them of an attempt to barter the right of election and the independence of the county to secure themselves private advantage—"*Oh, proh prudor!*" Shame, where is thy blush? A pretty specimen this of the "honest" fellow's respect for them! I think old Dactyle then let out more than was consistent with his assumed character. The truth is, that Mr. Benett enjoys the friendship, and has the support of the great body of our magistrates and gentlemen—all men of high character, but amongst whom this "honest fellow," the Clothier, finds no footing—he feels mortified at a consciousness of his own insignificance, and he endeavours to vilify his betters and debase them to his own level—he, like a fretful pedagogue,

would flog us all who think differently from himself; but, thank God, he is a toothless cur, who has nothing left him but the *power* to growl, and the *will* to bite. I should like to know what hand he has had in that "notorious" production, Mr. Pik's letter. The time draws near when the breast of every Wiltshire elector should beat high with honest independence. I believe there is not a man among us who, on *sober reflection*, would proclaim to the world his own disgrace, by admitting that in point of morals and talents, we rank so low that no *native of Wiltshire* can be found fit to represent us in Parliament. It would be a waste of time to reply to this writer's rhapsody about Cornish boroughs, but it may be some consolation to him to recollect that Mr. Wellesley *has represented a Cornish borough*, and his *senatorial services* may be again obtained through the same honourable channel, should they be required, or his *vanity* determine him to have a seat in the House of Commons.

*Trowbridge, June* 18, 1818. A SCRIBBLER.

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## *Independence.—Extraordinary Red Book.*

THE undermentioned gentlemen, relatives of W. L. Wellesley, Esq. one of the present Candidates for Wiltshire, receive the following sums annually from the pockets of the people, according to the Extraordinary Red Book, published in 1815:

| | £. | s. |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Wellesley Pole (father of Mr. Long Wellesley, as Master of the Mint | 10,250 | 0 |
| Marquis of Wellesley (his uncle), as Chief Remembrancer in Ireland | 4,261 | 0 |
| Sir H. Wellesley (another uncle) Ambassador at Madrid | 10,603 | 0 |
| The Hon. C. Bagot (who married an aunt), Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in America | 6,500 | 0 |
| Lord Burghersh (who married Priscilla) a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Duke of Tuscany | 1,500 | 0 |
| Lord Fitzroy Somerset (who married Emily Harriet) Secretary of Embassy at Paris | 536 | 10 |
| Gerrard Valerian Wellesley (another uncle) Chaplain to the King, Canon of St. Paul's, &c. (uncertain) | | |
| | £33,690 | 10 |

Brother freeholders—judge for yourselves, who is most likely to prove himself an independent member of Parliament, Mr. Long Wellesley, of Wanstead House, in Essex, or John Benett, Esq. of Pythouse, within your own county?

CALCULATOR.

N.B. I have not noticed any sum received by the immortal Duke of Wellington, because no pecuniary reward can sufficiently testify our gratitude to him for his eminent services.

## *To the Freeholders of Wiltshire.*

It was to be expected, that whilst Mr. Benett's glorious victory at Devizes, on Thursday last, would screw up to the highest pitch of joy and exultation the hopes of his friends, it would, on the other hand, strike pale more than one glowing countenance, which had beamed with malicious anticipation. Hence every hope of ultimate success on the part of one of our opponents having vanished, a system of intimidation has been resorted to (as a forlorn hope) for the purpose of endeavouring to deter the friends of Mr. Benett from exercising their free and unbiassed suffrages. Foolish and mistaken men!—how ignorant of the pith and marrow of a real Wiltshireman! Let Wednesday next teach them how we will conquer.

"He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
"Will stand a-tip-toe when the day is named,
"And rouse him at the name of 'Benett.'
"He that shall live this day, and see old age,
"Will, yearly, on the vigil, feast his neighbour,
"Call in his friends, and count his deeds of fame;
"Then will he strip his sleeve, and shew his scars:
"Old men forget—yet shall not all forget;
"But they'll remember, with advantages,
"What feats they did that day; then shall our names
"Be in their flowing cups freshly remembered."

Should sentiments such as these animate my brother Wiltshiremen (and he who doubts must sin), let us rally around our country's friend, unawed by threats, and not intimidated by terror. Let us join, and numerously attend the poll, and not in the smallest degree relax in our efforts, until our triumph be complete.

———"Now on, you noble Wiltshiremen,
"Whose blood is fetched from fathers of good proof—
"Dishonour not your mothers, now attest,
"That those whom you called fathers did beget you.
"Be copy now to men of grosser blood,
"And teach them how to vote. And you, good yeomen,
"Whose limbs were made in Wiltshire, shew us here
"The metal of your pasture; let us swear
"That you are worth your breeding, which I doubt not;
"For there is none of you so mean and base,
"That hath not noble lustre in your eyes:
"I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
"Straining upon the start. The game's a-foot—
"Follow your spirit; and, upon this charge,
"Cry, "Benett for ever," England and St. George.

A WILTSHIREMAN.

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## *Corn Bill—Waterloo!*

The 18th of June instant was certainly the glorious anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo! But remember, it is no less extraordinary than true, that William Long Wellesley,

Esq. although nephew of the Duke of Wellington, forsook his uncle at the beginning of his glorious career—came home—married a rich heiress (prudently, perhaps, for himself, thinking that glory should yield to love)—*got into* Parliament for the notorious borough of St. Ives—voted for the Corn Bill!—also for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act!—also for the indemnity of his Majesty's Ministers (his father being one)!—also for the grant of large sums of money, whereby taxes were increased!—also for the keeping up a large Standing Army in time of profound peace, at an enormous expense!—and only upon one occasion voted for economy, namely, for the abolition of the Property Tax!—whereby, however, recollect, he himself saved four or five thousand pounds a year!—and now dares to stand for this independent county, and disturbs its peace and quiet without the least chance of success!

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CORN BILL.

*Be it Known, and let it not be Forgotten, that*

Mr. LONG WELLESLEY,

One of the present Candidates for the representation of the county,

DID VOTE

*For the passing of the CORN BILL,*

In the Month of March, 1815,

Being then a Member of the House of Commons.

☞ The Freeholders will do well to look to this GENTLEMAN'S VOTES, and not be misled by his professions.

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CORN BILL.

*Be it Known, and let it not be Forgotten, that*

THE CORN BILL

Would never have been thought of but for

*Mr. JOHN BENETT,*

BY WHOSE

HARD SWEARING

Parliament was *deceived* into the Measure.

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## *To the Printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,—In a hand-bill circulated this evening, and signed W. Long Wellesley, it is stated, "I protest most solemnly against the unconstitutional proceeding of permitting the assemblage, in military order, of troops of yeomanry cavalry (though not in uniform), armed with heavy sticks."

As a member (however humble) of the corps above alluded to, I cannot suffer such a libel to pass uncontradicted;

and I most solemnly assert that the friends of Mr. Benett who were on horseback at Devizes, did not assemble in military order, were not *principally* composed of members of the regiment, though no doubt amongst the freeholders, there assembled, in the interest of Mr. Benett; many of them may have belonged to different troops; nor were they armed with heavy sticks while in the market-place and during the nomination. But, on quitting the town, some of Mr. Benett's friends were compelled to arm themselves with sticks, not for purposes of offence, but to guard themselves from the attacks of a desperate mob (unauthorised no doubt) wearing the colours of Mr. Wellesley.

I am perfectly aware that many other parts of this handbill are worthy of comment, but that I leave to abler hands than mine; nor would I have now intruded myself on the public, but from a sense of the duty which I owe to the regiment thus stigmatized.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

*Salisbury, June 29, 1818.* J. PENISTON.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—I beg most heartily to congratulate you on the numerous assemblage of gentlemen who appeared at Devizes on Thursday last, for the purpose of supporting the nomination of Mr. Benett.—The fact of so large a body of respectable freeholders assembling in his favour at so very short a notice, is, in my opinion, decisive as to the question of his election; and, from the observations I have made, I am equally decided in my opinion, that the ground which Mr. Benett has lately gained in the good-will of the county at large, is in no inconsiderable degree attributable to the extreme malignity which has marked the character of the opposition made to him; for generous minds will always spurn at such unparalleled arts as have been resorted to, to calumniate him in the present contest. What can be more horrid than the charge of atheism insinuated by the "indescribable" *Titus Trueman?* What can be more base than the wilful misrepresentation of Mr. Benett's evidence in the House of Peers?

I am ready to allow, and I do it with great pleasure, that I think Mr. Wellesley incapable of countenancing the base arts which I have alluded to. He is a gay, dashing, fashionable man, who, I understand, has always moved in the higher ranks of life, and who, I dare say, when huzzaed after by boys and rabble, marvels much how it is that he has acquired such popularity amongst them.

To Mr. Wellesley the representation of the county is a fair and commendable object of ambition; but the means that have been used to attain it for him are certainly far from commendable.

Being a stranger to the county, he should, on his first forming a connection with it, have ingratiated himself with its most respectable gentry and freeholders, whose good wishes a man of his address and splendid fortune might perhaps have gained over to his cause; they would have done honour to his cause, and would have bestirred themselves to procure his return in a proper and legitimate manner. But, let me ask who are now his associates? I have heard, and from indubitable authority, that one or two unbeneficed clergymen, to whom Mr. Wellesley was totally unknown before the present contest, but who, allured by his wealth, as crows are instinctively attracted by carrion, degrade the sacred character of their profession, by ranging themselves in the foremost and most active rank of his electioneering agents. His wealth has of course procured for him the services of innumerable attornies; who, as agents, only labour in their vocation. His other agents consist for the most part, I am sorry to say, of men of desperate fortune and disreputable character.

This is the rock upon which I pronounce that Mr. Long Wellesley's vessel will split, while that of Mr. Benett will gaily weather the storm. A. B.

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## WILTSHIRE RACES.

*On WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th,* 1818.

The FREEHOLDERS' PLATE

Will be run for by any "Thorough Breds," who can prove their necessary qualifications.—The best of heats. To be seen and entered at the Steward's post on the morning of that day. If any disputes arise, to be determined by the High Sheriff, or whom he shall appoint.—*The Thorough Breds already expected to start,—are*

| | *Rider.* | *Colour.* |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Corsham's Turncoat, by Changeable | D. Ollapod. | Uncertain. |
| Mr. Illweed's Corn Bill, by Self-Interest | A Shark | Pythouse Mixture. |
| D. Wellington's Nephew, by Independence | W. Waterloo | Wellington Blue. |

Mr. Compton's Wheel of Fortune, Mr. Marshwood's Country Gentleman, Mr. Swindon's Ambrose and Mr. Vyse's Escort, were named, but do not start.

☞ *To start each day at ten o'clock.*

The owner of each Thorough Bred is expected to pay——Guineas to the clerk of the course for post entrances, &c.—The instructions for clearing the course will be as much as possible enforced. None but *bonâ fide* freeholders will be admitted on the stand.

THE HIGH SHERIFF, STEWARD.

THE UNDERSHERIFF, *Clerk of the Course.*

*** All manner of rustic diversions every day, and Ordinaries every where.

*N. B.* It is expected there will be several matches, handicaps, and sweepstakes on the various days of the Races—due accounts of which will be published in the next Calendar.

## *NOTORIOUS FACT.*

### FREEHOLDERS OF WILTS,

"Let it be Remembered, and Let it never be Forgotten,"

THAT a "*few men* of *desperate fortunes*"* and "disreputable character" have, with a *long pole*, most unmercifully beaten the *long committee*, and will continue to do so, as *long* as they can bear it.

* See a *very gentlemanly* letter of *a* Mr. A. B. in the Salisbury Journal, of the 22nd.

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### WILTSHIRE FREEHOLDERS.

GENTLEMEN,

CROWD to the poll, that you may not be disappointed in the opportunity of giving your support to the man of your choice.

Every voter who polls in the cause of independence and Long Wellesley, *which is one and the same*, will have his name handed down to posterity.

*Now* therefore is your time, *or never*; our *opponent's resources* are failing, his *strength* has been *tried* to-day, "*he has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.*"

One day more and with your assistance, we must succeed:

*Hurra! Long Wellesley for Ever!! No Benett! no Cossacks!!*

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### THE CLOTHIER'S LAST WORD
### *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE repeatedly called your attention to the real question at issue at the present election of a Parliament Man for this county. It is, WELLESLEY, and future independent votes for yourselves and your children, or, *Benett*, and cringing under the Quorum.

☞ Though often urged to it, no one has disputed the correctness of this plain statement. It cannot be disputed.

If the last production of the pitiful "Scribbler," who again attempts by a "random squib" to draw your attention from the true question, were worthy of any notice, there is now no time to turn round for the sake of boxing the fellow's ears any more.

You are now going to the hustings.

You that wish to establish Quorum influence for ever, kiss the ground and crawl upon your knees, and whine out, *Benett*.

You that are for handing down to your descendants an honest and honourable independence, walk up boldly, like true Wiltshire freeholders, and give *Wellesley* a plumper.

*Trowbridge, June 23*, 1818, A CLOTHIER.

# WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

## *NOMINATION AT DEVIZES.*

## THE QUORUMITES AND THE HINDON TROOPS.

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### *To the Freeholders of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

FACTS speak louder than words, and the events of this day are certainly sufficient to convince you which of the Candidates you ought to return, and, consequently, the one you ought to reject. Will you for a moment entrust your liberty, your property, your lives, into the hands of a man, who violates the constitution of his country on the very threshhold of his entrance into public life, and most feelingly endangers the lives of his fellow-subjects from a too great affection for his own? The Hindon troop of cavalry had no business at the Nomination of Candidates for the county; they were introduced for the purpose of intimidation, and for preventing, from the situation to which they were ordered, the High Sheriff from arriving at the sense of the freeholders. There were as many of Mr. Methuen's and Mr. Wellesley's friends *behind* the troop as there were before them, whose hands the Sheriff could not possibly see; although, as it *was*, the numbers were so nearly equal that the Sheriff could not determine to whom belonged the superiority.

Now, Gentlemen, if, after this declaration of the Sheriff—a declaration true *to the best of his knowledge*—(for the horsemen prevented his seeing half the freeholders in the interest of Mr. Methuen and Mr. Wellesley), a man, and that man a Candidate, was to publish a hand-bill, asserting that the freeholders were "*almost unanimous*" in his favour, you would unite in passing no very favourable opinion upon his veracity. I am prepared to prove to your satisfaction, that there were three to one against him, and that Mr. Benett's assertion is a LIE!

When the troop was requested to dismount by a respectable gentleman, in order that the fears of the freeholders might be allayed, and the Sheriff better able to perform his functions, he was answered by one of those friends to "*Order*," that, "*if hell itself stood in the way, he would not dismount!*" Would you believe it, Gentlemen, that this hero on horseback was lately a Member of Parliament, and is one of the "Quorum!" The remainder of that *respectable* body were on the leads and balcony of the Bear Inn, contributing, by words and signs, to produce that RIOT, which

Messrs. Locke and Phipps, in the effervescence of their morning's zeal, had been so careful to prevent. They read the Riot Act, lest a riot should take place—*not because there was one;* and, having finished this *chief d'œuvre* of magistracy, they proceeded to the balcony, where some were attempting to produce what must have been a serious breach of the peace. After the conspicuous display they made of themselves on leads, on balconies, at windows, they cannot be offended at being called—nay, I rather think they did it for the purpose of deserving the epithet so well applied by Mr. Wellesley—" the *notorious* Quorum!" Some of them were almost as notorious as the Bear himself, having placed themselves on the same level. You will discover from this martial array, and from the conduct of their leaders, on what interest Mr. Benett grounds his pretensions.—The Hindon troop lined the front of the place where you had assembled to exercise your rights as freemen; but whenever one of you appeared whom they suspected hostile to their chief, they attempted to close round you, and prevent your admission. I heard Mr. Calley (his name shall not be kept secret) repeatedly order the men to interrupt the proceedings of the day, in defiance of his duty as a magistrate, and of the oath he had taken to preserve the public peace; while some of his companions, arranged in front of the Bear, seconded his endeavours by their cheers. 'Tis on such an interest as this that Mr. Benett's independence is founded: but will you, Gentlemen, suffer your rights to be at the disposal of the Hindon troop, though excited to tumult by some of the Quorum? Are you to be brow-beated into the choice of Mr. Benett by such men, and such means? Will you so far degrade yourselves as to choose a man at ALL, who, after boasting himself that he had been every where received with such *amazing affection,* is yet afraid, though in the midst of those very persons *who love him so,* to trust his superhuman attractions beyond the sound of the horse-hoofs of the warriors of Hindon! The way in which the other Candidates conducted themselves corresponded with the views they entertain of the electors of this large, enlightened, and high-spirited county. They did not skulk into the town by night, but entered it in *broad* day. They needed no guards, having entrusted their pretensions to the good sense of the people;—they have cast anchor in their affections, and secured their claim;—they trust their cause to the freeholders at large; they throw themselves upon them, and are thus enabled to treat with scorn the attempts of a club of *invalids,* a Quorum of *decrepits,* and the bravery of a *loyal* troop of *discontented cavalry,* though headed by the late member for

Cricklade. Shall the slaves whom you saw on horseback, who *hooted* when they were told to *hoot*—who marched when they were told to march—to form the line in front of the cross, when they were told to form;—shall they have to boast of giving a member to the county of Wilts? Shall we not rather beat them from the field? Will you, Gentlemen, who are making such a glorious stand against the tyranny of clubs and Quorums, submit to this *military despotism*, appropriately introduced with a *tri-coloured* cockade? Perish the thought! You have made a noble stand, and in Devizes too—John's own castle, the very hive of the Quorumites!

> "What! hunt the lion to his den,
> "And take him there!"

'Twas a bold stroke! Well done, Gentlemen! Bravo! Wiltshire men! And done so quietly, too!—done so much like freemen! Who are the disturbers of the public peace—the friends of Mr. Methuen and Mr. Wellesley, or the *Old Moon-Raker?* (who, by the bye, was not there). The Quorum, of whom Mr. Calley is a member—or the men who, in the discharge of a great constitutional duty, submitted to insult from those who were the conservators of the public peace? Again I repeat, Well done, Wiltshire men! Persevere, and you'll be free—do it like men, and you'll deserve it. The 18th of June, the day of your nomination, was the aniversary of the battle of Waterloo, when the gallant Wellington, by victory, restored the peace, and secured the liberties of Europe. I trust it is ominous—that it will prove propitious, equally propitious, to his nephew, when contending for the long-lost rights and independence of your county. It is to your exertions that he looks for support: second his endeavours, and his efforts will be crowned with the most ample success. You observed the unfair and unhandsome manner in which he was treated by the Quorumites and the dregs of the clubs;—you saw, that, although Mr. Benett could not have procured a hearing from those who were "*almost unanimous*" in his favour, but for the interposition of Mr. Wellesley, yet that courtesy could not prevent his receiving interruption from one individual, whose conduct was certainly at variance with his station and circumstances in life. This is the way in which they have acted all along: there is nothing fair, or candid, or manly, in their proceedings. You will convince them that there is something of a different kind in yours; and will, by returning him as your representative, reward his exertions in your cause.

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful Friend,

*Devizes, June 19th,* 1818. TITUS TRUEMAN.

# FREEHOLDERS!

## *HERE'S A CONTRAST.*

| "LOOK ON THIS PICTURE— BENETT, | AND ON THAT." WELLESLEY |
|---|---|
| Supported by a few Landholders—bolstered up by a *notorious Quorum;* and attempted to be forced upon us by a *Club*, whose members wish to tyrannize over the county, and prevent the Freedom of Election. | Stands on his own merits—uses no threats—despises undue influence—gives the county at large an opportunity to free itself from fetters of a Club, and to exercise its right to Freedom of Election. |
| Has a "*local*" knowledge of the county: *viz.* knows his way from Pythouse to Salisbury, and back again—and is a Captain in the Yeomanry Cavalry. | Has a general knowledge as a Statesman—has travelled over half the world—and has fought by the side of the illustrious Wellington. |
| Gave officious evidence in favor of a *sweeping* Corn Bill, not for the good of the nation;—but as he himself stated, to *keep up his own rents*, and declared if that were not done, he would leave the kingdom. | Voted for a *moderated* Corn Bill to enable the tenant to deal with the tradesman, and thus support both: and, to prove his sincerity, *lowered his rents* one quarter, and if that was not enough, offered to burn his tenants' leases. |
| Unable to pay the expense of an election, he holds out his hand for assistance—lays himself under pecuniary obligations to the freeholders—renders himself a dependent man—and the only chance he has of making it up is—if he succeeds,—to accept a Place or a Pension. | Disdains to accept the freeholders' alms—is sufficiently rich to be independent of every man, and to enable him, as he always has done, nobly to refuse either Place or Pension. |
| Makes his own wool into cloth of Pythouse mixture, to undersell the manufacturer — sells spades, hoes, ploughs, &c. to keep down the mechanic—keeps a builder's price book to clip the gains of the workman—and sends to Coventry for his own election ribbands, to save himself the profits of the shop-keeper. | Does Wellesley do any thing the least like this?—No! No! |
| Employs his talent and his time in farming, printing and publishing *Tables* to shew how *little* the poor can live on—and that any thing beyond barley bread and potatoes, is a luxury and unnecessary for them! | Does Wellesley do this?—God forbid! |

"Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed,
"And batten on this moor?"

I am, your obedient Servant,

HAMLET.

# FREEHOLDERS!

## *HERE IS THE TRUE CONTRAST.*

| "LOOK ON THIS PICTURE— BENETT, | AND ON THAT." WELLESLEY, |
|---|---|
| Upheld by the great body of Landholders, Yeomanry, and Tradesmen, on truly independent principles, perfectly unconnected with "Clubs" or "Quorums;" though gentlemen who sometimes dine together, and Magistrates who attend the Sessions, unite with their poorer brother freeholders in tendering him their voluntary and ardent support. | Attempted to be foisted on the county by the influence of his wife's family, by a few peers, by a number of little Freeholders, through the influence of the grossest misrepresentation, and, by what all may hear and see on his return from the hustings, through the Market-Place, Salisbury, that most disgraceful spectacle in a large independent county, *a ministerial mob.* |
| Has a "local knowledge of the county,"—*viz.* has attentively studied and made himself thoroughly acquainted with whatever may promote the prosperity of *all* ranks in that agricultural *part of the kingdom* of which he is a *Native*—has constantly resided on the estate of his ancestors, and spent his income in the encouragement of trade and agriculture *at home.* | Is stated by his panegyrists to "have a general knowledge as a statesman;" which, however, has been hitherto confined to *himself.* It is said he has "travelled over half the world;" that is, he has expended his fortune among *foreigners,* in sailing over so much water and riding over so much land, as to yield us another proof<br>"How much a Dandy sent abroad to roam<br>Exceeds a Dandy that is bred at home." |
| Gave a *mere opinion,* at the requisition of the British Legislature, in favour of a Corn Bill. He also asserted the self-evident fact, that if corn were to be as cheap in a country burthened with an enormous load of debt and taxes as in one comparatively free from both, landlords and tenants must be compelled either to leave the kingdom, or to employ their capital in some more advantageous pursuit. He allowed, however, all his tenants who chose it (not excepting the notorious Mr. John Fisher himself) to cancel their leases, and generously took *their* ruin upon *himself.* | Voted for the Corn Bill; whether upon a moderated scale or otherwise; on the principle he voted on almost every other occasion—just as it was proposed by Ministers. |
| Is reproached by his adversaries for his poverty, and his inability to pay the expenses of an election. He feels this most illiberal insinuation as reflecting disgrace only on those who made it; and (whether or not as able to pay his debts as his opponent) that the examples of a Hampden and a Marvel prove that great wealth is not always necessary to independence. | Boasts of his own contempt for expense, while insulting his opponent for his poverty, and talks of his own noble disdain of place or pension, while a member of a family possessing places and pensions to the amount of eighty thousand pounds per annum! The creditors of the *rich* Mr. Wellesley are, doubtless, calculating their gains with the most chuckling anticipation, and perfectly despise the vulgar adage—"Don't reckon your chickens before they are hatched." |
| Spends a portion of his time in experiments in trade and agriculture: on | Does Mr. Wellesley do any thing like this? No! No! He employs his time |

one occasion made his own wool into cloth as his adversaries express it, at a time when wool was *unsaleable*, and employs a number of mechanics and labourers, paying them by *measure, or task work*, as an encouragement to ingenuity and industry. Every liberal mind will say, that the pitiful sneer of "clipping the gains of the workmen," renders the author of it worthy of being sent where he charges Mr. B. with sending for his ribbands, viz.—*to Coventry*.

Is much occupied in the consideration of plans for improving the condition of the poor, and drew a scale for their relief, according to their real necessities,—designed, certainly, to discourage the idle and dissolute, but to administer more effectual support to the *afflicted*, the *aged*, and *infirm*.—In proof of the absolute falsehood of his wish to reduce their wages, he proposed, as may be seen by his evidence before the Committee on the Poor Laws, to create such a demand for labour that the *poor might be paid according to the price of provisions*. In short, Mr. B. is constantly directing the powers of his liberal mind in the suggestion of measures for cultivating our own country, and feeding and clothing its augmented population, so as to render us independent as much as possible, if not altogether, of *foreign* nations.

at his toilet, in the lounge of Bond-street, or in the ring of Hyde-Park in the morning; and in Fop's Alley, at the Opera-House, or in voting away the people's money in the House of Commons, in the evening. Any thought of the great staple commodity of his country, wool, never entered his mind, unless, as remains for the Wiltshire freeholders to shew him, that when he dreamed of carrying their independent County, his "thoughts did indeed go a wool-gathering."

Does Mr. Wellesley do any thing like this? No! No! Then, till he does, all we have to do is, to tell him to go back to the marshes of Essex or the bogs of Alleyne, according as he chooses to be English or Irish;—that he has no one thing to recommend him to our notice, but that he is nephew to the Duke of Wellington; and that, even that, is unavailing, since he is

"No more like his Uncle
"Than I to Hercules."

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

HAMLET, *Secundus*.

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THE freeholders and friends in the interest of MR. LONG WELLESLEY are respectfully informed that his *Committee* sit *daily* at their Room in Crane Street, Salisbury, where all communications on the subject of the election, are to be addressed, and where the freeholders are requested to apply for any information they may require.

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THE friends in the interest of W. LONG WELLESLEY, Esq. in *Salisbury* and its *neighbourhood*, are respectfully informed that *Carriages* are provided at the *Regent's Hotel*, to convey them daily to and from the Poll.

*General Committee Rooms, Crane Street,*
*Salisbury, June 23rd.*

## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

MR. BENETT'S Troop did go into Devizes in military order,—they received the word of command from Captain Calley, who formed them into two lines, leading from the Bear Inn to the Market-place, between which issued from the Bear, according to order, the infantry who attended Mr. Benett.

A bludgeon was taken from one of the horsemen, in an affray which took place before either of the Candidates had spoken;—another bludgeon was sold by a person (a farming servant) who had been enlisted for the day into this aukward squad. Both these weapons may be seen; one at Mr. Morris's, a most respectable gentleman of this town; the other (which was purchased by a friend of mine) at my Committee Room.

During the course of my speech, this *French* guard frequently brandished their weapons at me, and did infinite honour to their tri-coloured flag.

have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, 22nd June,* 1818.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

A TROOP of Horse, I understand, entered into the town of Trowbridge late last night, and as I am informed, Mr. Mortimer, a magistrate, and a partisan of Mr. Benett's, has availed himself of this force to intimidate the voters.

Electors—Let me entreat you to conduct yourselves orderly—not to resist the troops—to be respectful to the magistrates;—No magistrates, no troops dare interfere with you in the free exercise of your elective franchise. If, however, they venture to do so, I pledge myself to protect your rights.

My success is no longer doubtful.—It is for you to ensure me *victory*, by steady and orderly conduct, and, thus doubly to disappoint our opponents.

I am, Gentlemen, your devoted and humble servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Salisbury, June 22nd,* 1818.

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## *Freeholders of Wiltshire!*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE been spending the last week or two with a friend in the vicinity of Salisbury. Thinking to find some amusement

in the electioneering humours of John Bull, free and undisguised, but manly and harmless, I rode up to the polling-ground in the mornings, and strolled through your principal streets in the evenings. Fond of contemplating the human character in all its gradations, I had anticipated an exhibition of much drollery and of some coarseness. My expected *amusement*, I regret to say, was soon converted into uneasiness, or rather into serious concern. I am, gentlemen, a Hampshire man, and was present and voted at the last contested election for that county. Our *friends* in the opposite interest flung a few squibs, but *no stones*, at our favourite Candidate; pointed a few witticisms, but levelled *no bludgeons* at our heads; sung a few songs, but uttered no curses deep and loud even against the Candidate most powerfully supported by court influence; made various comparisons in ridicule of our colours, but never dreamed of calling on brother freeholders to *strike* their colours. This was the way in which we managed these things in Hampshire; but the scenes which I have witnessed here, would (if I had not recollected that the mob is not the county) have made me exult that I was not "a *Native*" of Wiltshire.

Why, gentlemen, what is become of the plain good sense of Englishmen in your county? By what magical process is it, that a courtier, the son of a courtier, is metamorphosed into the idol of the populace, and supported even by some from whom a different conduct might have been expected? I am no orator, but had I any right to appear on your hustings, I could not, I think, help asking your vociferators of "No Benett" —"Wellesley for ever"—"What was the purport of your "clamour? My good friends, if you could reflect, as well as "you can bawl, surely you would soon bawl to another tune. "—You are now roaring Wellesley for ever! for he voted to "deprive us of our liberties—Wellesley for ever! for he voted "that ministers should do what they please, and never be called "to account for it—Wellesley for ever! for he voted for a "large standing army in a time of profound peace, as the most "expeditious way of easing us of our superfluous cash, and of "stopping our mouths if we presumed to murmur—Wellesley "for ever! for he voted for large grants to different members of "the royal family, as thinking, no doubt, they had not enough, "and his Majesty's loyal subjects a great deal too much— "Wellesley for ever! for he voted for the Corn Bill, lest we "should have bread too cheap—and d—n Benett to all eter-"nity, because he *only gave an opinion* about it, and wished to "devise a plan, by which we might always have a good loaf "at a fair price, both for the grower and the consumer!"

Now, gentlemen, though the immortal Wellington has thrown such a lustre on the name of Wellesley, that I would

be tender towards Mr. Long Wellesley for his sake, yet I stand astonished that either his name, or his marriage (and what other claim he has I cannot discover) should ever be allowed as fair pretensions to represent your independent county in Parliament. But the climax of my astonishment is, the bitterness expressed by the lower orders, and the opposition excited by some of a better description, against another of your Candidates. You will recollect that I am not so much advocating the cause of Mr. Benett as expressing, in the character of an impartial observer, my surprise at the treatment which he experiences.

My friends, to whom I alluded, at the commencement of this address, assure me that he is a gentleman of a very ancient family in the county, of unblemished character, and competent fortune,—that he, (as well as his ancestors before him,) has constantly resided *in your own part of the county*, and expended his income among you—that he is beloved by all ranks of people to whom he is really known—an active, intelligent, and upright magistrate—a good husband, an affectionate father, a kind master, a firm friend. To these testimonies allow me to add another, for which I can vouch on my own observation—I happened some years since to be in the vicinity of this gentleman's residence, at a period when he was suffering under a dangerous illness. The dejected countenances, the anxious inquiries, the heart-breathed prayers of his humbler neighbours, offered up and heard by heaven on his behalf, convinced me he must be the poor man's friend—With this impression on my mind, can I do otherwise than marvel at what I now behold?

Because, in one solitary instance, Mr. B., when called on by the British legislature, delivered a certain unpopular opinion respecting the Corn Laws upon oath, I presume, or which, to a man of his principles would be the same, upon his honour, I hear him hissed and hooted at as if he were the enemy of God and man;—nay, not only so, but threatened, and even so violently assaulted, that his numerous friends deem it necessary to range themselves constantly around him for his personal protection. Admit that he estimated the average price of corn too high, still it was but an *opinion*, and the opinion of a single individual—while Mr. Wellesley gave his *vote* for the measure, on grounds which it is not necessary here to investigate.

I had intended to offer a few farther remarks on this subject, but my pen is arrested by a hand-bill, just delivered at my friend's house, signed W. Long Wellesley, announcing to the freeholders the arrival (as he understands) of a troop of horse late last night in the town of Trowbridge. Now, gentlemen, after all I have witnessed, I must be allowed to doubt either the truth of this intelligence or its connection with any ends of the Wilts Election. Of the object with which it is published,

there can be no doubt. Let Mr. W. look to the mischief that may ensue, and let the freeholders of Wiltshire look that when a stranger would thus mislead them, they do not hear.—Thus will they be cured of their partiality to one stranger, and give very sincere pleasure to ANOTHER STRANGER.

——— *near Salisbury, 25th June,* 1818.

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## A FRIENDLY HINT TO MR. BENETT.

SIR,—the best way for *you* to prove that all the *rioting* which may take place in *Salisbury*, during the *poll*, must originate with *Mr. Long Wellesley's party*, will be, for you never to come into that city; retire to *Pythouse*, or to the residence of any friend in the neighbourhood. I *admire* you prodigiously, and would not stick at any thing to promote your cause, but I am afraid it will be too *difficult* a task to make the freeholders believe that Mr. Long Wellesley's party are the *instigators* of riot, when it is *notorious* your presence alone can call forth *those* bad *passions* so generally excited by *hatred* and *contempt* of your *principles;* remain at home, and the peace of *this city* will be secured. By the *good advice* I have given you, I *feel entitled to subscribe myself*

MR. BENETT'S BEST FRIEND.

*Salisbury, June* 22, 1818.

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## *To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Yeomen, and Freeholders in general, of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

IT was with as much surprise as indignation, that I saw a hand-bill signed by Mr. Long Wellesley, which contains an attack upon me, as unjust as it is unfounded. I refer to that part where he is pleased to "protest most solemnly against the unconstitutional proceeding of permitting the assemblage, in military order, of troops of yeomanry, cavalry (though not in uniform), armed with heavy sticks."

I could easily have excused Mr. Long Wellesley from making a statement of this nature, had it depended upon his own knowledge of the parties who accompanied me on the day of nomination. He, being a stranger in the county, could not be personally acquainted with the very respectable freeholders in whose company I was,—but he was surrounded with persons who might have told him, that the yeomanry cavalry of Wiltshire will never assemble in or out of uniform, without proper constitutional authority; and who must have known, also, that out of the great number of freeholders with me, not more than ten or twelve belong to that corps.

I am pointed at as the leader of these ideal troops, (as ideal as Falstaff's men in Kendal Green);—but, to be prepared for such a command, when I entered Devizes, I had not even provided myself with a pair of boots, and had not even a switch in my hand, and most of my *heavy-armed* troops were as ill provided as myself.

The fact is, that the free exercise of the suffrages of the freeholders was impeded by the atrocious conduct of a mob (none of whom were freeholders) and whose evident object was to intimidate those who were freeholders, from expressing their sentiments;—an object which, I trust, the honest zeal and true spirit of Wiltshiremen will defeat.

I most *positively deny* "that the disorder arose from those who wore Mr. Benett's colours, and from no others;" and I appeal to the gentlemen, who, as magistrates and constables, so laudably, though ineffectually, endeavoured to preserve the peace, for the truth of my assertion.

The disorder arose from the violent attacks made by a detachment of *infantry*, who (if not *hired)* were actually *armed* for the occasion, not only with heavy sticks, but heavy stones, and other missiles, with which they had provided themselves, and had taken up their positions at the various turnpikes, for the purpose of insulting and assaulting the friends of Mr. Benett.

Nothing is easier than the making professions.—I trust that Mr. Wellesley will prove the truth of his, by ordering his agents to abstain from encouraging persons to be guilty of such excesses, and to permit the freeholders to use their "unbiassed" judgment in the exercise of their franchises.

I have thought it necessary to make this public contradiction of Mr. Wellesley's statement, from the fear that some persons, who are unacquainted with me, and with the character of the Wiltshire yeomanry cavalry, may be imposed upon by the confident manner in which the misrepresentation has been made. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most faithful servant,

*Burderop Park, June 22,* 1818. THOMAS CALLEY.

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## BOROUGH AND DIVISION OF DEVIZES.

At a meeting of Mr. Benett's Committee, it was unanimously Resolved,—That such of the freeholders in the interest of Mr. Benett, in this district, as may require it, shall be conveyed to, and from the poll, *free of expense*, on application to Mr. Ings.

*Devizes, 23rd June,* 1818.

*Committee Room, Angel Inn, Marlborough, June* 20, 1818.

JOHN HALCOMB, Esq. in the Chair:

On the motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Captain Brown,

*It was Resolved,*—That the Committee view, with great regret and dissatisfaction, the late tumultuous and riotous disturbances at the day of Nomination, at Devizes; that from the statements they had heard, corroborated by strong facts, those disorders are to be attributed to the adherents and partisans of Mr. Wellesley; that persons were forwarded, not having freehold property, to Devizes, and liberally paid for their trouble by the same injudicious partisans; that the public peace has been much endangered by those means, and the freedom of election openly violated.

That it is their duty, and that of every freeholder, to mark their decided disapprobation of such unconstitutional proceedings, by supporting Mr. Benett, and by calling on their neighbours to counteract, by their votes and interest at the poll, the disgraceful system of intimidation, and the open and undue influence so violently exerted.

The following resolution was then moved by John Wentworth, Esq. and seconded by Mr. Dixon:—That carriages be provided for the purpose of carrying the freeholders of this district, in the interest of Mr. Benett, who are unable to procure the same, free of expense, to the poll.

On the motion of Mr. Stephen Brown, seconded by Mr. Charles Pinckney, it was also resolved:—That the additional assurances of support this day received, in consequence of the late disorders, tend to confirm their opinion of the undoubted eventual success of Mr. Benett, and the triumph of truth and purity of election.

That the meeting should adjourn until Monday next, at the Angel Inn, Marlborough, and continue to sit every day from that time, until the final close of the election; where all communications, on behalf of Mr. Benett, are desired to be addressed to Mr. White, secretary to the said committee.

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*Committee Room, Angel Inn, Marlborough, June* 30, 1818.

JOHN COCKSCOMBE, Esq. Chairman;

On the motion of Capt. BLACK, seconded by WILLIAM ASHMAN, Esq. it was

*Resolved unanimously,*—That this Committee view, with great regret and dissatisfaction, that unless some prompt and vigorous measures are taken, Mr. Benett will lose his election.

2nd.—That this Committee do write, and force all Sextons, Grave-diggers, Dog-whippers, Church-sweepers, Bell-tollers, and all other Servants and Dependants on the Church or Church-

yard, to come forward and poll for Mr. Benett; and, in order to encourage them so to do, they promise to provide most liberally for their accommodation on the road, *viz.* by Dining at *Stonehenge*, and quenching their thirst with good soft water at *Burbage-pond.*

3rd.—That the thanks of this Committee be given to the Churchwardens of both Parishes in this Town, for their kindness, in forcing (by threats and otherwise) their respective Sextons, Grave-diggers, Dog-whippers, &c. &c. to the Poll this day.

4th.—That the Churchwardens of the respective churches be requested to keep in their pockets the keys of the church, in order to prevent the bells ringing, in consequence of the large majority Mr. Wellesley has obtained over Mr. Benett.

(Signed) FRIZZLE-PATE, *Secretary.*

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

No person sympathizes more cordially with you than I; I regret that you are unwell; men of malignant minds say, that you sometimes find it *convenient* to be so; but every body asserted that you would recover as soon as the special constables were sworn in.—I particularly regret that you were so situated on the day of the nomination at Devizes. O, that you had been but there! How dear 1772 would have flashed upon your remembrance!— Then you would have seen something indeed to the honour of Wiltshiremen, though very little to the honour of *your* "true Wiltshire family." You would have seen the man to whom all Wiltshire looks with the eye of hope and confidence, surrounded with "troops of friends," in the centre of a cavalcade, collected by attachment, and inspired with the love of country, bearing on their breasts the badge of independence, and panting for the freedom of which yourself and your fellow labourers sought to deprive them. You would have seen, on the other hand, the man of "*local knowledge,*" the "*active magistrate,*" the gentleman of "*high honour,*" the "*good citizen,*" and the "*good christian,*" surrounded by troops of—*friends*, in the common acceptation of the term?— O, no, by troops of horse! By his own troop of cavalry, to the violation of order and the hazard of men's lives. What! did you not tell us that John was so much beloved that every body would vote for him? that his cause was so popular that should the people hold their tongues there was not a sheep on the downs of Wiltshire but would *ba!* in his behalf? Didn't you give us almost an endless list of 'squires, some of them in France, some in London, some in their graves perhaps, who were all *committee* men too? Didn't John give a dinner at

Devizes to put the folks in good humour?—Didn't they sing "John Benett for ever?" How comes it about then, that their love is so soon changed? That he can't venture amongst them unless he is surrounded by a troop of soldiers? If your intellects were not clouded by years and infirmity, you must see, with half an eye, that though John is very well convinced of the love of the people of Wilts to him, he is also convinced that 'tis that sort of love that he can't exactly trust to. He thinks it quite right that they should trust their dearest interests into his hands, but considers it an act of too great condescension in him to trust his carcase into theirs. Though one good turn deserves another, this is a turn which John likes to keep to himself; how could you persuade, how can you persist in persuading a man, whom the population of the county abhor—to whom they have testified it in the most unequivocal manner, still to offend them with his presence, when you know that the only reward he can receive will be insult and defeat?—Take him with you to Swindon for a month or two; enjoy your exhilarating glass together, consoling yourself that the scenes of 1772, in which you know you took so much delight, are now going to be acted over again, with spirit and success. As the Old Moon-Raker, you have disappeared, but you still retain your station as A. B.—Paltry subterfuge!—As if a change of name could produce a change of sentiment, or of style. How insulting to the population of this great county, to tell them in defiance of all they see and hear, that "Mr. Benett is gaining ground in the affections of the people!" So he has told us for these three months; so you have chaunted for the same period! Shameless impostors! The people have a strange way of shewing their love to either him or you, and you both have a strange method of shewing your confidence in their regard. For whose protection are all these special constables appointed? For Mr. Methuen's or Mr. Wellesley's?—O! no. And you know it *can't* be for Mr. Benett's, "for he is gaining ground in the affections of the people!" They are appointed for the protection of a man whose principles and conduct have made him obnoxious to every man attached to the religion of his country, and who feels for the wants and woes of mankind. If the people are so attached to him, why not trust himself amongst them? Why come attended with a bludgeoned banditti, or a posse of constables? Is this the way to usher in a favourite for the "true honour of your Wiltshire family?"—disown it. Is the representation of this great county to become an heir-loom to the Hindon troop? Is it to be settled for ever in the gallant chief of that warlike body? Draycot-House is nothing to this. How miserable your cant about Draycot-House; about an heir-loom to Draycot-House, when it is

owing entirely to the possession of it that the representation of the county has become *free;* that the freeholders have an Election; and how you, (for you are very learned) can make that *perpetual*, which is constantly *revertible*, should Mr. Wellesley be returned, is to me surprising; and yet not much so, considering the way in which you have written and acted since the commencement of your moon-raking "propensities."

How dare you assert that Mr. Benett's evidence before the Lords has been misrepresented? Had it been so, you would have noticed the fact: It is too faithfully represented for your cause; and it is no doubt owing in a great degree to this; that "John is gaining ground in the affections of the people." No doubt of it, they cannot but love the man who said they ought to be fed upon *pig's meat!* The charge, the insinuated charge of atheism stands uncontradicted; it is more than insinuated, by the "*timely act of justice*" of Mr. *Lucas*. There is no man that does not believe in something; Does Mr. Benett believe in the God that the Scripture reveals? He may believe in *a* God, I don't doubt; but some gods have got black faces.—Till this is settled to the conviction of the public, there is no man bearing the name of christian; there is no man wearing the livery of the church, that can consistently give him a vote.

That Mr. Wellesley may be attended by *unbeneficed* clergymen, you may know; I confess I do not; but this detracts nothing from their intellectual or moral qualities, although it no doubt constitutes a heinous sin in your eye, who owe so much to *beneficed* divines, and whose kindness you return by advocating the cause of a man who disbelieves the doctrines they teach, and would deprive them of the means of support for doing so. Like Robespierre, to whom you was once allied in politics, you have been fostered by the priesthood, yet cherish the wretch that would overturn their altars. If wealth be *carrion*, it is a pity that some persons should have taken such extortionate methods to acquire it, or render it subservient to the progress of vice, and the extension of misery. When you speak of Mr. Benett's gaily weathering the storm, you were surely inclined to be facetious. He may weather the storm as *gaily* as he pleases, but the freeholders are determined that he shall never gain the port.

MY OLD HEART.

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## WILTS ELECTION.

THE Nomination for this county took place on Thursday, 18th June, at Devizes, which was crowded beyond all prece-

dent. Mr. Benett arrived quietly the preceding evening. About half past eleven on the Thursday morning, Mr. Wellesley entered the town, accompanied by a formidable and respectable procession; and within half an hour, he was followed by Mr. Methuen, and a number of dignified friends, who were received with general acclamation. The High Sheriff in a short time after, (followed by the Candidates and their friends) proceeded to the monument, in the centre of the market place, where he opened the business in a few neat sentences. Captain Bouverie then stepped forward and proposed Mr. Methuen, seconded by E. Joy, Esq. William Wyndham Esq. proposed Mr. Benett, and was seconded by T. Grove, Esq.; and Mr. Wellesley was proposed by John Long, Esq. seconded by Captain Bouverie. Immediately after, Mr. Methuen addressed the meeting at great length; and although this gentleman was not treated so unceremoniously as the two other Candidates, yet it was impossible, from the general uproar between those on horseback and those on foot, to connect what he said. He retired with great applause. On Mr. Benett's coming forward, the greatest clamour mingled with applause ensued. In vain, at first, the Sheriff endeavoured to procure for him a patient hearing,—"No Benett,—off—off," from one side, and "Benett for ever," on the other, was incessantly reiterated. At length, after repeated ineffectual attempts he addressed the meeting for nearly half an hour; and we have been told by some of his friends who were nearer to him, that it was a most manly speech. Mr. Wellesley then endeavoured to gain a hearing; but, like the former gentleman, he was received with shouts of approbation on the one side, and clamours on the other; and for the greater part of an hour, all efforts to produce silence proved ineffectual;—the moment he attempted to speak, the cries of—"off, off" from the friends of Mr. Benett, entirely precluded those at any distance from hearing a word. He retired, as he came forward, amid the hearty cheerings of his friends, and the disapprobation of his opponents. The Sheriff, (who conducted himself as a Sheriff ought—most manly—most impartially)—declared the shew of hands to be nearly equal; on which he adjourned the meeting till the following Wednesday.

*Wilton, June 24.*—This morning, the election of two knights for this county commenced at this place. The Sheriff rightly judging that scenes similar to those practised at Devizes might again take place, had surrounded the cross with railings at a distance sufficient to prevent those on horseback from interrupting the proceedings of the meeting. Mr. Benett arrived about an hour before the other two

Candidates, each of whom were preceded by large cavalcades of freeholders on horseback and in carriages; but the friends of Mr. Benett had so completely filled the area in front of the town-hall, that Mr. Methuen could not reach the cross without getting from his carriage. Mr. Wellesley's carriage, drawn by the populace, was completely obstructed; this gentleman, however declared to the meeting that he would not leave it until he was drawn to the cross; when the constables by the order of the Sheriff immediately cleared the way. On the three Candidates taking their stations, the King's Writ and the Bribery Act having been read, and the Sheriff sworn, Mr. Grove, of Fern, proposed Mr. Methuen; he said he had known him intimately and long; that he believed him to be a man who would serve the country faithfully and independently; that he considered him amiable in private life, and equally estimable in his public character; for these reasons he should propose PAUL METHUEN, Esq. for their representative. (*Applause.*) Mr. ——— briefly seconded this nomination, and bore testimony to the private and public virtues of Mr. Methuen.

Mr. BENETT was then proposed by Mr. Wyndham, of Dinton, and seconded by Mr. Everett, of Heytesbury, in concise addresses to the meeting, in which they expatiated on the ability and virtues of that gentleman.

Mr. Wray and Capt. Goddard proposed and seconded MR. WELLESLEY, and briefly recommended him to the good-will and support of the freeholders.

Mr. Methuen then came forward and spoke as follows:

"Gentlemen, Freeholders of the county of Wilts, the hour which I have anticipated has arrived! I viewed it without fear, and meet it without regret. It is the hour, gentlemen, when your representatives, having lost that character, appear before your tribunal as candidates; and where, before they can request your favour for the future, they must render you an account of their conduct for the past. I am proud, gentlemen, to say that I can do this without blushing; I may have served you feebly, but I have done it faithfully; and my hopes are sanguine of a favourable verdict. I have never betrayed your interests, and I never will. It is on your favour I stand, and on that alone. I will form no coalition with any other Candidate. It was on your interest, gentlemen, that I first entered the House of Commons; I will never insult you by attempting to bring myself in by nominating another candidate. It would be indecent to the county,—it would shew a want of common sense in myself.

Whatever may respect your commercial or agricultural interests, the county in general, or this county in particular, you will ever find me careful—ever at my post. All I ask in return, is your approbation. I look forward to no honour, to no reward, but being again returned as your member. Mr. Hallett, with whom I do not agree in all things, has lately made a remark which I think ought to be deeply impressed on all your minds; and to which I shall humbly beg leave to add a word or two more:—"The day of all others," says he, "on which a man should keep himself sober, should be that in which he is returning his representatives to Parliament." Had he added *peaceable* to *sober*, the advice would have been complete. I have only now to apologise to such of the freeholders as I have not called upon; I may have injured my own interests by it; it consoles me, however, that it was by attending to theirs in my public capacity. I was in the House of Commons, endeavouring to keep that money in your pockets, which I knew you could not afford to pay. I throw myself on your support with the fullest hopes of success."—This speech was received throughout with repeated marks of approbation.

Mr. Benett then addressed the freeholders to the following effect:

Gentlemen, Mr. Methuen's expressions are great—Mr. Methuen's expressions are excellent—they ought to be written in letters of gold. Gentlemen, I am not new in this county, but I am in new circumstances—I am a new candidate for a seat in the House of Commons. I have omitted on all occasions to speak of my family; but I owe it to my ancestry to say, that they have been known in this county for five hundred years. Some of them have been military men, and some of them statesmen, but none of them sinecurists. Had they been sinecurists, it would not then have been said of me, that I was too *poor* to represent the county of Wilts. Some of my ancestors assisted at the Revolution: though this is very immaterial to you; yet it behoves me to explain to you what are the duties of a Member of Parliament: I have been reading about them these twenty years, and have thought a great deal about them. It is his duty to attend the House, and not to mind the multitude—it is his duty to act to his oath; and, when he acts to his oath, he acts to his conscience. I am an independent man. There are two parties in the house, fighting for place and power; I mean to be independent—to be of neither party; and if I am the only one, I'll keep my ground; for it is independent men, on all great questions, that turn the scale. It is a gross falsehood to say that I was a friend to the Corn Bill. I was com-

pelled to go to give evidence to the Corn Bill—I never voted for it; I don't wish to get rid of it, by a quibble. I have said so to many friends in private; and I must be a rogue and a fool to wish a tax upon wool. I have read a great many books on political economy, and at a very early period of my life, too; and am therefore as strong a friend to trade as to agriculture. I stated to you, that proposals had been made by Mr. Long to me for an anxious settling the contest by reference; Mr. Long consulted with Mr. Methuen—(here there was some clamour, Mr. Methuen contradicting his statement)—I am in error: Mr. Methuen told Mr. Long to do as he pleased.——Mr. Methuen:—Gentlemen, this is a misrepresentation; I never said so; I said *that* I thought it quite unfair to bring my name in along with gentlemen to whom I was not opposed; but that I was willing to make any sacrifice for the peace of the county, provided it met with the approbation of those who supported me! *(Applause.)*

Mr. Benett made no reply, but thanked the freeholders for the patient hearing they had given him, and retired amidst the cheers of his friends, and the groans and hisses of his opponents.

Mr. Long Wellesley then addressed the meeting as follows:

Gentlemen, after the long speech of the hon. gent. I have particular satisfaction in addressing you, especially when I see so many of the gentlemen before me bearing the colours of my opponent. Gentlemen, there is a principle belonging to my nature, and I'll boldly state it; if I find myself engaged in a right thing to stand to it; if wrong, instantly to acknowledge it. My opponent has complained of anonymous publications; I regret the appearance of such things; I never wrote them, I never sanctioned them; and they have been alluded to in a way in which no man of honour would have deigned to notice them. But it is me, gentlemen, who ought to complain on this head; it is me, gentlemen, of all men, against whom such attacks have been directed; I came amongst you a stranger, but I was not treated like a stranger! with such a character the Arab in the desert will share his bread and salt, but I was loaded with calumny and abuse; I am warm; you will excuse it, I forgive those who did it, and shall not again refer to it. The honourable gentleman has alluded to a circumstance, in which it has been said, that I offered to Mr. Benett to give up the contest for the county; and he has insinuated that I did this on account of his (my opponent's) inability in a pecuniary point of view, to meet its consequences. Gentlemen, I never said so; I never insinuated so; if he is poor, I am sorry for it; and was I mean enough to plume myself on my riches, I am sure I should

never consider myself deserving to be returned a member for this county. My pride is, that, though rich, I never abused wealth. I have endeavoured to evince that I consider wealth but as subservient to the public good; and on all such occasions the application of it is pardonable. I have been accused of coming into this county and taking out of it a rich heiress, I grant that I did.

Gentlemen, my knowledge of your county does not extend beyond six or seven years. I cannot boast of having family connections for so long a time as five hundred years, as Mr. B. has done; but the lady to whose family I belong, and whose ancestors have been often honoured with your choice, can trace their connection with your county to a remote period. The family of Long distinguished itself in the support it gaves to Charles the First, and upon the restoration of Charles II.—for their services they were ennobled. As to my own family, it matters little where they come from. And as to their name, I must say that I am proud of it; of the name of Wellesley I am proud; I am proud to be the nephew of the Duke of Wellington; and I hope I shall always support the character which belongs to the name. It has been said, gentlemen, that I deserted my uncle; if such an assertion has any meaning it would go to insinuate that I had not done my duty; Captain Goddard knows that military men are rather tenacious on such points; I went abroad with the views which most young men do; I staid with my uncle till my services were no longer necessary, and then I returned; and if I got married, gentlemen, it was no more than many of you would have done in similar circumstances. Gentlemen, I hope you will always conduct yourselves with propriety; treat your magistrates with respect. Nothing can affect you, unless you do something that can be construed into an illegal act. Keep yourselves free from all things of this description; I will protect you; I will stand your friend.

The hon gent. has been amusing you for a long time with what he thinks are the duties of a Member of Parliament. He has told you all the works he has read for these last twenty years, and I own that he appears to have conducted himself towards you very much as a school-boy does who returns to his mamma at the holidays. He next claims some merit with regard to his deep researches into political economy. The Poor Laws have especially attracted his attention;—but is he on this ground qualified to represent you? Why there is not a man in all Europe, that can think at all, but has made this the subject of his consideration. It has almost become embodied in the hearts of the people. If, however, there was one man to be found who had not made them the sub-

ject of his meditations, it is the honourable gentleman. It is morally impossible that the habits of his education, that his studies would allow him to do it. But if they even did, is it wonderful, that what all the world have applied themselves to, he should be qualified to represent you, because he also had taken a look!

He has given us, gentlemen, a little of his special pleading; he says he never *voted* for the Corn Bill; that's very true, because he was not in the house; but it was on the evidence that he gave that the Corn Bill was enacted. And probably were you to return him to the house, he would be no more there than another ordinary man, he might give them one of his long speeches; there have been some of that sort there before, and that is the reason that they are never heard. He informs you that he did not go voluntarily to give evidence on the Corn Bill, that he was compelled to go. I heard from Sir John Sebright that he went up at his own request, and, besides, the Speaker only requests the attendance of such persons as may choose to come, and few or none but those who feel an interest in it go; it is not imperative, and a man must be an ideot not to see that it was entirely for his own interest that he went and gave evidence. It was to keep up his rents; it was to receive the same price for grain in peace, that he had received during the war.

After paying a very handsome compliment to Mr. Methuen, and shaking Mr. Grove and Mr. Wyndham most cordially by the hand, he descended from the cross amidst the loudest acclamations of his friends.

As soon as the Candidates had addressed the freeholders, the Sheriff adjourned to the hustings, which had been erected in the Devizes road, about three miles from Salisbury.

STATE OF THE POLL.—FIRST DAY.

*Methuen*, 185; *Long Wellesley*, 162; *Benett*, 85.

Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett again addressed the Freeholders; followed by Mr. Wellesley, who spoke nearly as follows:

Gentlemen,—It is quite impossible for me not to regret, not only for your honour, but my own, that any disturbance should hinder the Candidate that has just withdrawn (Mr. Benett) from being heard. It is the duty, and indeed the interest, of every freeholder to pay attention to every thing that may drop from those who aspire to the high honour of representing them in Parliament. I should feel hurt if any friend of mine should throw an obstacle in the way. Gentlemen, you are in possession of votes; look into your hearts, and if I know any thing of human nature—if I know any thing of the noble feel-

ings which actuate—which warm and ennoble an Englishman—I am confident you will hear patiently for the future what that gentleman has to say. Whatever is past that may irritate the feelings, I would have you forget. I would have you to act with that bold,—that manly,—that upright,—that independent spirit which has got you, from every nation of the earth, the character of being a people just and generous to their enemies. (*Loud and continued applause.*) Gentlemen, you have, by your votes this day, evinced how high I stand in your estimation—how weak and futile the attempt of those who oppose my interest—and proves to a degree of certainty, that I shall be ultimately successful.—Gentlemen, this morning I had to speak of myself and family; but now I shall wave that subject, and advert to one of more interest. Gentlemen, although not a native of your county, yet I am bold to say that few feel more anxiously than I do for its interests, its prosperity, and its welfare. Much, gentlemen, has been said about local interests. There are two great interests in your county—agriculture and trade; and it does not require a man of extensive information to uphold the interests of both. But, gentlemen, I do not consider the man of mere local knowledge he who is best calculated to represent you in Parliament:—no, it is he who is well acquainted with the history of his country, and not only with her domestic, but foreign connections. Gentlemen, the majority (indeed, I may say, all, except one) of those families, who supported the contest of 1772, are decidedly my friends. I know, gentlemen, that the honest, plain English tradesman is not very ambitious to aspire to the degree of 'SQUIRE; yet, gentlemen, I will notice a few 'squires who have honoured me with their support. One of them, whose ancestors often represented this county in Parliament, and who can proudly boast of one of his forefathers having died on the scaffold for his sovereign—I allude to Mr. Penruddocke. (*Loud huzzas*). That gentleman has given his support to Mr. Methuen and myself; and I have no doubt, gentlemen, but I shall shortly have all the Goddards in the county to support me; so that they cannot say whether it is Mr. A. or Mr. G. Goddard—I now, gentlemen, with feelings of the greatest respect, heartily thank you for the support you have given me this day.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of thanking you for my superiority on this day's poll. Notwithstanding the renewed

reports of a coalition with another Candidate, I feel confident in the perfect impartiality of conduct to which I have adhered, and your knowledge of my character, to acquit me of a suspicion of this nature. To those who know me, I am sure it is unnecessary to repeat that declaration; but I must again repeat it,—"No consideration shall induce "me to take part, directly or indirectly, with either of the "other Candidates."

Begging you, gentlemen, without delay, to continue your exertions in my favour, in order to establish permanently the superiority, of which my friends have already laid the foundation,—I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your devoted and grateful servant,

*Salisbury, June* 24, 1818. PAUL METHUEN.

STATE OF THE POLL.—First Day.

*Methuen,* 185; *Wellesley,* 162; *Benett,* 85.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

Gentlemen,

The result of this day's poll has fully answered my expectations, and justifies the prediction I ventured to make in my former addresses to you.

It is upon you, and you alone, I rely for ultimate success. I am persuaded you will not disappoint me; but will, by your alacrity in coming to the poll, convince my and your opponent of the futility of his pretensions to be your representative; and that the only prudent course he has to take is to retire early from a contest, in which he is sure to be discomfited.—I am, Gentlemen,

Your devoted, faithful servant,

*Salisbury, June* 24, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

STATE OF THE POLL.—First Day.

*Long Wellesley,* 162; *Methuen,* 185; *Benett,* 85.

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## *To the Freeholders of Wiltshire.*

Gentlemen,

The Sheriff this day declared that the sense of this independent county is in my favour. I never doubted that you would, at this earliest opportunity, place me in the elevated station which I at this moment hold by that declaration. I doubt not that your continued exertions will place me in the same pre-eminence at the close of the poll, and that I shall soon have to thank you for conferring on me the highest

dignity to which an Englishman can aspire,—that of representing his native county in Parliament.

Brother Freeholders, be not intimidated by the obstructions which have hitherto prevented your access to the poll in my favour. The prevalence of violence and disorder cannot be of long duration. We live in a country in which the law is irresistible. Your rights will ultimately prevail over all opposition; and your unbiassed suffrages will confirm the Sheriff's declaration in my favour; persevere, and your triumph cannot be distant. Outrage and tumult will shrink before you.

Gentlemen, I have the honour ever to remain,
Your faithful and devoted servant,

*Wilton, 24th June*, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## TO MR. SAUNDERS, OF MARKET-LAVINGTON.

SIR,

IT is reported that Mr. Benett informed you, that "had he been in Parliament, he should have voted *against* the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, and *against* Indemnity for Ministers." I am assured that you assert that such were Mr. Benett's declarations.

An answer, and an unequivocal one, in the Salisbury Journal, will regulate the votes of many, and especially of

Your's, AN UNPOLLED VOTER.

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## BRICKS AND MORTAR,

*Or, the Trowel and the Truncheon; or, Feeling and Funk exemplified.*

J. P——N's Letter to the Editors of the SARUM JOURNAL.

Before the Cross there stood a *hod*
Of bricks and mortar—rather odd!
It spake!—dull, heavy, like the lead
Which propt its *foot*, and *claim'd* its *head*!!

A CHARGE of riot having been alleged against the friends of Mr. Wellesley, by Mr. Halcombe, Mr. Coleman, and Capt. Brown, a charge, which every man present in Devizes knows to be false, and which Mr. Wellesley's friends defy them to prove, has, notwithstanding, emboldened a "*humble member*" of the regiment, who created all the riot visible in Devizes, and whose name is J. Peniston (it is not known whether it be John or Jeremiah), a man, whose high sense of honour cannot suffer any thing prejudicial to the character of the corps to pass without remark, has yet the honour to assert in the face of the world, and in defiance of truth, that the friends of Mr. Benett did not assemble in military order, yet admits

that many of them *might belong to troops!* He then with equal truth asserts "*that they were not armed with heavy sticks,*" while in the market-place, prior to, and during the Nomination; while, unfortunately for this officious advocate of the troop, one of the very sticks, and which only weighs *three pounds and a half*, is in the possession of a gentleman of Salisbury! If they did not provide themselves with sticks till on Devizes Green, where did they get them *then?* From what hedge—from whose faggot pile? This is the sum of Mr. Peniston's truly elegant appeal to the public, in behalf of the honour of his *stigmatized* corps! He then modestly informs us that he leaves the rest of the hand-bill, from which he extracts the offensive charge, to *abler hands!* This is certainly very kind of him, and the world would not have sustained any very great injury if he had left the whole of it to any other hands than his own. Mind the *trowel*, John! Mount the scaffold, John! *There* you'll be at home! *there* you'll appear to advantage! Leave *authorship* to "*abler hands!*"—On the *leads* of the Bear Inn you certainly were most conspicuous; and if the mob became "*desperate,*" the cause must be traced to yourself and friends; but the galling cry of *no popery*, brought you in quick time from your perch! After all, what makes this papist, *who has no vote*, stand forward so boldly for the honour of John Benett's insulted troop? I'll tell you.

*A.*—He receives from that troop, in the shape of *pay* and *perquisites*, two hundred pounds per annum!

*Q.*—What makes him so zealously advocate the cause of the Quorum?

*A.*—He is bricklayer to the New Gaol by their appointment.

*Q.*—What attaches him to the interest of J. Benett?

*A.*—Because Mr. Benett informed a certain Catholic lord, that if he would give him his interest, he would, if returned, vote for the Catholic Bill!! — No Atheism! No Popery!

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*Mr. Long Wellesley's Speech, as delivered by him, at the Nomination at Devizes, on the 18th of June,* 1818.

(By a near Observer.)

When the tumultuous guard opposite have ceased their clamour, I shall take the liberty of addressing you.

Gentlemen—They will neither fatigue me, nor render me intemperate—I shall patiently wait upon them as long as they please.

*(After various attempts to speak.)*—I might have troubled you with a long oration; but my opponent has furnished me with so much matter, that it is only necessary for me to continue where he left off.—I pledge to prove to you, according

to his own shewing, that Mr. Methuen and myself are, of the three Candidates, the most proper to fill the situation of your Representatives.

The honourable gentleman says, you ought to return no member to Parliament, whose public conduct has not been tried, and proved to be independent. He must admit, as well as I do, the tried independence of Mr. Methuen: and I have to prove that my public conduct will stand as high upon that score as any man's.—I will prove, that before I had such an inducement to become independent as I shall have when I represent this great county, that I was as fully so as any one. I have been accused of sitting for a government borough, and of being indebted to government for that seat. This is one of the numberless falsehoods which has been urged against me. I overthrew the government influence at St. Ives, and defeated (to use a fashionable phrase) a notorious boroughmonger, Sir Christopher Hawkins. I seated myself for that borough in order to oppose Government with regard to its foreign policy.—Lord Wellesley, with whom I was politically connected, having quitted the administration, because he thought the ample resources of this country were not adequately afforded to his brother, the Duke of Wellington:—the whole world knows the truth and wisdom of the Noble Marquis's policy;—and the country equally knows that the government which he quitted had recourse to the measures which he had recommended. I then joined the administration, and gave it my fullest support.—I accepted no place. Mr. Benett, is this dependence? Up to the peace of Paris, I continued my support to Government. —I went to Vienna.—I might have sought foreign employment.—I attended the Congress.—I differed with Lord Castlereagh.—I withheld from that Noble Lord my feeble support to his General Treaty. Upon a variety of financial questions, like the late independent member, I opposed Government.—I shewed, in my opposition to Government, that which others, without disadvantage to themselves, ought to adopt. I considered public conduct to be one and a distinct duty, which ought not to be affected by private feeling.—I* spoke against my own father—an unfortunate person who falls under the stigma of being a cabinet minister, but without a pension:—more as to *that* by and bye. This transaction shews, at least, that I am independent. According to the honourable gentleman's shewing, it ought to be *tried independence*.—I imagine he means in the House of Commons—does he mean at Pythouse?—does he mean it with his own corps?—or does he mean it to be tried by the

* Vide Mr. W.'s Speech on the Property Tax.

test of any notorious society? If he does, I bow to him, and assert that I am unfit for the honour of representing this county. He says now, he applies his meaning to the conduct of members in Parliament. Well; there we both agree—and he admits that I am one of the Candidates who possess the qualification which he thinks requisite—that of tried independence. I am fit, therefore, Gentlemen, according to his own shewing, of representing you; though we have not heard from the honourable gentleman a word to-day, of that infallible nostrum of "local interests," which I own appears to me a species of quackery, which the honourable gentlemen has done wisely to keep in the back-ground.

The honourable gentlemen states that others have supported the Corn Bill as well as himself. I called upon him to name whom he meant:—Me, I suppose. Yes, Sir, I did vote for the Corn Bill; I voted for the limited Corn Bill. I did not give evidence to raise the price of corn to a hundred shillings. The hon. gentleman's evidence is in print: he was desirous of reducing the food of the poor to that which it was a century ago. Sir, if the measures in this respect had been adopted, which the hon. gent. wished, I doubt if there ever would have been *A MR.* Fisher: it would have been simply Farmer Such-a-one. The vociferous gentlemen opposite must have been contented with wholesome beer; old port would never have disordered their heads.——If they by chance rode to market, it would have been upon Old Dobbin, with the dame behind, properly encumbered with butter and eggs. There would have been no whiskies—no hacknies—nor hunters out of the trotting mare got by Mr. Calley's favourite for the Derby. There would have been no ordinary at ten shillings for the Lords, and five for the Commons, over the way*; but the hospitality of their champion 'squire would have been more stable.—He probably would have attended this meeting in the good old style, with his coach and six bobtails. *He* might have been benefited by his *own* evidence. To the community at large it could produce no good. I have read it attentively, and the governing and only principle in it appears to me to be a strong regard for self-interest.

Sir,—Recent evidence and discussion relative to the state of the Poor Laws, has clearly demonstrated that the country has grown in wealth as the poor and middling classes have increased in comfort and prosperity. There have been periods in the history of this country, in which there were no middling classes: it was all rich and all poor. These were

* There is an ordinary provided, at which the most wealthy Yeomanry dine for 10*s.* a-head, and the less wealthy at 5*s.*

the periods when barley-bread was the chief sustenance of the manufacturing and labouring classes.

Now, Sir, the *corps du guard* of Pythouse having refreshed* as well as exhausted their breath, and a pause ensuing, I will say a word or two about a cabinet minister.——I thought as much—a most beautiful groan!—Mr. High Sheriff, I shall remain perfectly tranquil until either you, or your deputy, or their champion, choose to command their attention. Well, then—to a cabinet minister:—I have been accused, but insidiously, of pluming myself upon my family connection. This is falsehood the second; but I will endeavour to give it the air of truth—for I am proud of my family. I have the great misfortune of being intimately connected with the Duke of Wellington: it is, indeed, a misfortune; for, if it had not been from my having served with that nobleman, I should not to-day have been struck with the great similarity of the colours which the squadron before me wears, to those which were adopted by the French usurper. Their conduct also assimilates very much to the French troops—for there is much more exclamation than valour.——Thank you, Mr. Hughes—"a great cry and "little wool." When you have ceased, I shall continue to speak.——With the Marquis Wellesley, also, I am connected: this is a misfortune. It is a *notorious* fact, that he abandoned office when place would have been a desirable pecuniary advantage to him. It is equally well known that he returned from India a poor man, when he might have become a rich one—all countries attest his too great liberality. My poor father is much to be pitied: he is, indeed, a cabinet minister. He has been twenty years in public life, and he is now, I believe, receiving the lowest salary which can be given to a cabinet minister—about equal to that of a London *police* magistrate. Here, for the first time, the honourable gentleman and myself are on a par. The cabinet *minister* receives his orders from his sovereign!—the police magistrate is dictated to by his sovereign's cabinet! I beg pardon of the hon. gentleman; but is it true that *his* brother is a police magistrate?——Really, Sir, that gentleman in the white coat, whose large buttons have attracted my attention, need not be so vociferous or impatient.—I shall soon have done with his champion; and if he will listen to me, I will tell him that, though his face has made no impression on me, his coat has: and my memory very much misgives me, if he did not assure me that he had no vote—and I think if he had, he said he would give it me.——I

* At this instant one of Mr. B.'s troopers was seen refreshing himself from a pocket-pistol, which he took out of one of his holsters.

thank him for the brandishing of his bludgeon: perhaps in the corps, into which I see him enlisted, he may possess himself of votes as readily as he plucks sapling oaks.

"Now, Sir, as to one or two less points—a few small questions, and we will all retire. I pity you, Sir; and I feel for myself. I will not allude to what *has* been said, but I will confine myself to what has *not* been said. Did the honourable gentleman say (I really beg his pardon), but that new room and long window is so disguised by figures, who, like harlequin, grow out of pantaloon, and which have become so suddenly decorated with tri-coloured ribbons, that I forgot the place at which I had the conversation with him. It was at that very window—where the honourable gentleman told me, that he never had said I was an Irishman;—that, he said, he had denied it every where. Is it so? He shakes his head—no answer—the Devil and Dr. Faustus! What does he mean?—Oh!—I understand him!—"he says, he never did say I was *not* an Irishman"—but he never said "I *was* an Irishman:"—nor will he deny but that he held a conversation with me at the great room in the Bear opposite, upon that subject. Well, then, I am no Irishman, and I am not dependent—two great points obtained:—I shall soon be member for the county if I advance at this rate. George the Third, our gracious Sovereign, is about as much an Hanoverian as I am an Irishman—born, bred, and educated in England. I first set my foot upon Irish soil, when I landed at Dublin, and embarked at Cork for the Peninsula, with my unfortunate relative the Duke of Wellington.

One word with regard to Draycot House. The gentlemen need not be so vociferous.—To cold arithmeticians, the imprudence of my allusion to that house may be considered as inexcusable. But from my soul, I cannot but see how sensible I must be of the obligations I am under to a certain lady, had I not, upon my first presenting myself before the county, alluded to that house. I do say it was the most modest—the most prudent course I could adopt: and it will be a great source of gratification to me, if I can repay the debt of gratitude I have incurred towards that family, should I restore to it the distinguished honour which many of its representatives have been favoured with before. And if I take as models of my Parliamentary conduct, those of Mrs. Long Wellesley's ancestors, who have represented in the House of Commons the interests of this great county.

One more complaint I have to make against the honourable gentleman—I of course conclude (for I know nothing to his disrepute) that he would not mis-state any thing: but what means that statement which has appeared in the papers,

relative to some jargon of "unbiassed suffrages," and of "not going to the poll?" The papers assuredly spoke not one word of truth; but some proposal of that nature was certainly made by me to the honourable gentleman, and at the instigation of his own friends and well wishers. But let me take the whole odium of that upon myself—and it amounts to this—that I was not desirous of disturbing the *tranquillity* of the county, or of going to the poll; or, if you please, spending money; or of making others spend money; without being fully satisfied that even my enemies would, upon the examination of my votes, admit that the majority of promises, which I had received, were such as fully warranted all that I had done, or every thing that I might intend to continue to do—*(Mr. Hughes very violent)*.—Well, Sir, be not so violent—your friend has thrown me down the gauntlet. I have put the glove on—this has been—

"A hit, a most palpable hit."

A poll you and he require.—You shall have it, and beware of the fate of *Laertes*; be not caught—

"Like a wood-cock in its own springe."

Gentlemen, I shall no longer detain you; but I shall assure Mr. Benett, that all that has happened since I have trod the boards with him, has perfectly determined me never to break my crust, or to eat or to drink in peace, or be happy, till I successfully oppose his pretensions, when placed in opposition to mine, for the purpose of representing this great county in Parliament.

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*Committee Room, Salisbury, June 22, 1818.*

RESOLVED by me, W. Long Wellesley, that the motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Captain Brown, reflects on those gentlemen disgrace, inasmuch as their accusations are untrue. No persons were forwarded to Devizes, at my expense, and none were paid for their trouble in disturbing the peace. Mr. Long Wellesley recommends Mr. Coleman and Captain Brown to send forth to the public in future, truth, and not falsehood.

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## *To the Freeholders of Wiltshire.*

COUNTRYMEN! The newspapers have teemed of late with epistles relative to the respective Candidates; many of which contain much more writing than sound argument. Fewer words, more aptly applied, would have given you a better insight of the real character of the gentleman in question; but the truth is, that while, (instead of thinking and acting impartially) the advocates of the one party are eagerly desirous of finding out faults and blemishes in the other (which

is the case with both sides) you will find it very difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood and slander. Countrymen; let me advise you not to debase your minds by selfish interested views, or by party spirit;—think and act like true Britons.

Let England's men, like Englishmen appear;
To patriotic independence dear!
Detest corruption; spurn base int'rest low;
And let their country's love within them glow.
Elect no person for mere wealthy fame;
Nor him whose sole desire is honour to obtain;
Elect a member likely to fulfil
Th' important duties of his station well;
Elect the Patriot, who will best declare
His mind in Parliament, devoid of fear;
Whose wisdom and whose prudence can foresee
The good or evil of each state decree:
Whose honour and integrity are known;
Who seeks his country's interest—not his own;
Who for a representative is fit,
And in the Senate with renown will sit;
If men like this the Parliament compose,
In peace and happiness Great England shall repose.

In reference to the respective Candidates, I would observe first, that it will be for you to decide, from Mr. Benett's character, whether those abilities which are placed to his credit would most probably be employed conscientiously, or be appropriated to the advancement of his own interest, regardless of the sacred duties of that important trust to which he aspires. But even if you perfectly approve of Mr. Benett, considered as to himself; you ought still to hesitate before you elect him; for, I understand that there are certain political clubs established in the county, whose practice it has been for the last forty years, to meet together and agree among themselves who shall be elected the representative of Wiltshire; and whose power has been so great, that by their influence principally the members for the last forty years have been nominated. Countrymen! if this be true, there is no doubt but that it is a sort of tyranny which tends to divest the great body of electors of the power of electing, and which therefore ought to be crushed before it is too firmly established.

Now Mr. Benett is supported by the main body of these clubs; and consequently if, in this hard struggle, you elect him, you increase the power and influence of these clubs at the expense of your own. It is therefore for you to consider, whether these clubs are dangerous or not; if they are, you will do well to crush them, by opposing their measures, which add to their influence.

In reference to Mr. Wellesley;—he is not a native of the county 'tis true: but he is not on that account less fit to represent us. There have been many heavy charges made

against him, but most of them appear to have been refuted. If he has endeavoured to use Treasury or Government influence, he has done wrong; but I do not think this charge has been clearly proved. Nevertheless I would advise you to make a strict investigation of Mr. Wellesley's character, and if you have no better resource, choose the least of two evils.

As to Mr. Methuen;—I frankly declare my opinion, that he is the fittest of the three to represent us;—from what I have heard he is an independent man, and neither speaks under the wings of the administration, nor opposes the government from party spirit.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

ANGLOIS.

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LOST or STRAYED, for nobody would Steal it, a Camelion coloured Spaniel, the property of John Bonett, Esq. answers to the name of

OLD MOON-RAKER.

Whoever will restore it to the owner shall receive a reward of one yard and three quarters of *Pythouse mixture*, from the Editors of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal, in whose columns it has been roaming for these ten weeks under violent suspicion of Hydrophobia. To be paid for by a voluntary subscription of the Quorum, and by the sale of songs at one penny each, by the butler at Pythouse. Old George the Second will be taken.

N. B. Barley bread and potatoes every day in the year.

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WILTS COUNTY ELECTION.—SECOND DAY, *June* 25.

The polling commenced this morning at nine o'clock, about which hour Mr. Methuen arrived, and addressed the Electors in a handsome speech, in which the hon. gentleman, after giving a summary view of his conduct in Parliament, entered into a vindication of himself from a report which had gained much prevalence, of that gentleman's having entered into a coalition with Mr. Wellesley. This the hon. gentleman denied upon his honour, and said he would appear upon the hustings every hour, and call upon any person to come forward and prove that he ever coalesced. The hon. gentleman appeared at different times after on the hustings, and denied the coalition in the most energetic terms.

About half past ten Mr. Long Wellesley was discerned from the hustings, amidst a multitude of friends, whose reiterated applauses demonstrated the proudly eminent situation which the nephew of our illustrious Wellington had in their affec-

tions. As they approached the place of polling, their huzzas were answered by his friends on the hustings; as he entered the palings, the heart-felt applauses became extreme, and "Long Wellesley for ever" resounded "till the welkin rung." On his arrival, the band struck up, God save the King, and he immediately addressed the Freeholders in a speech nearly to the following effect,—"Gentlemen, I will not trouble you with a long speech,—I deplore as much as any man, the outrageous attack on Mr. Tinney last night; that action was a disgrace to that cause you thought you were advocating; I would not, gentlemen, consider that man for a moment my friend, who would, by any act of his, invade that protecting pale which the law has thrown round every Englishman. Gentlemen, if you wish to see me in that situation which it is my highest ambition to attain; if you wish me to consider it an honour, and not a disgrace to represent you, let your conduct be orderly, and such as becomes that noble character which makes the Englishman in all climes stand as the first of men. I now, gentlemen, thank you for the favour you have shewn me, and hope that your conduct will be such as to defy the calumny of your enemies."

Mr. Methuen again appeared, and after in the most solemn manner protesting his entire innocence of the charge of a coalition, offered, if any person who doubted his word, would go to Salisbury and bring him a bible, he would make oath, in the presence of that assemblage, that there was no foundation for the report.

Mr. Wellesley then, in a speech, replete with wit and humour; a speech, which, added to his gentlemanly and conciliating manners, drew the applause of all present: "Gentlemen, (said he) I really am ashamed of repeating to you that word coalition; I would advise every school-boy to look into his dictionary and see the meaning of it. He (Mr. W.) could see nothing in coalition disgraceful, nothing contrary to law; when some of you, my friends, return to your houses, and turn this dreadful word coalition in your minds, you will probably exclaim, Good God! what wicked men these three Candidates are! As for my part, I declare, I have formed no coalition; on this head I am perfectly independent. But, gentlemen, you must recollect, that this word coalition, like many other pretty things, soon tire those who use them. Gentlemen, when an enemy is beaten, he descends to electioneering tricks; I disdain such conduct. Gentlemen, I must again repeat the horrid word coalition, and declare, in the most solemn manner, that no coalition exists between Mr. Methuen and myself. Mr. Methuen is a gentleman for whom I have the highest respect; he is independent; with him I should be happy to sit in Parlia-

ment, and there consider him, as I do here—a friend. Gentlemen, I shall conclude with saying, "Every man for himself, and God for us all."

Mr. Wellesley retired cheered from all quarters.

About one o'clock Lord Folkestone addressed the freeholders, and endeavoured to impress upon their minds, that Mr. Methuen formed no coalition. Mr. Methuen followed on the same subject; and in his speech exonerated Mr. Benett from being privy to the fabricated report which was industriously circulated by the troop wearing Mr. B.'s colours. (Here the hon. gentleman pointed at Mr. B.'s troop.)—Mr. M. then said that the report never originated with Mr. Wellesley or his party.

Mr. Benett then came forward, and in a speech replete with tautology, which perhaps was occasioned by the frequent interruptions he received from the hisses and groans from the surrounding multitude, he denied, in common with the other candidates, a coalition, and often alluded to the contest of 1772.

Mr. Long Wellesley then addressed the meeting to the following effect: "Gentlemen, I mean no expression of disrespect to Mr. Benett, nor do I mean to use any words that might detract from that gentleman's honour; but I must say, that if ever a man (to use a common-place expression) made a birch for his own back, it is Mr. Benett. His own words prove me to be the man best calculated to represent this great and independent county. It is not for me to talk of what I have done for my country. I certainly have not kept open houses; I have not, gentlemen, to ensure my election, opened my *long purse,* with the liberality of my opponent; no, gentlemen, I had no need to fee any partisans; I live, gentlemen, in the hearts of my tenantry; (a voice from the crowd—indeed, Sir, you do;) I uphold, gentlemen, the character of a great landholder by this conduct: do I distress my tenants? Which of them prefers a complaint against me?—Not one. Gentlemen, my heart tells me, my judgment approves, my conscience applauds that conduct which places this duty above, far above hospitality. *(Great applause).* The hon. gentleman, (Mr. B.) has alluded to the contest of 1772: gentlemen, I advert to that contest with feelings of the highest exultation; I ask him if he can number among his supporters more than one family that was engaged in that contest; can he number the Penruddockes, or the Goddards, amongst them? No, they were my friends; so is Admiral Popham and Sir F. Burdett; those are they who have enlisted under my colours; those are they who uphold me; these are they who consider me a fit person to represent you in parliament; and yonder (pointing towards Mr. B.'s troop) are the respectable gentlemen who have enlisted under my opponent's colours. That gentleman is certainly supported

by one family, and one only, and that was engaged in the contest of 1772; I mean the hon. and ancient family of the Wyndhams, a family for whom I have the highest respect." The hon. gentleman, after thanking the freeholders, retired amidst the loud huzzas of the multitude at four o'clock. The state of the poll was declared by the High Sheriff as follows—*Mr. Methuen*, 763; *Mr. Wellesley*, 509; *Mr. Benett*, 410.

When Mr. Methuen stepped forward, and after thanking the freeholders for the support they gave him, he again reverted to the coalition and retired. Mr. Benett then came forward, and through the exertions of Mr. Long Wellesley, he obtained a partial hearing. By what we could collect of his speech, the gentleman expressed his determination of continuing the contest. For us to attempt a minute detail of the other parts of his speech would, from the uproar that ensued, be worse than folly.—When Mr. B. retired, Mr. L. Wellesley thus addressed the assemblage: "Gentlemen, if the hon. gentleman who last addressed you wishes to continue the poll for twenty days, I shall always consider it my duty not to own that man for a friend who would disturb the public peace—I will never countenance him, it is not proper, nor just, nor honoumble, nor the characteristic of the English nation. Gentlemen, if I lost one hundred votes by it, I would myself, at the risk of my personal safety, seize that man who, by an act of riot, would violate the laws of his country. Gentlemen, this day's success far exceeds my expectation, and leaves my return no longer problematic. Gentlemen, for Mr. Methuen I entertain the highest respect; you will always find me his rival in independence; for, gentlemen, I shall never give way to or be less independent than he or any other man in existence. My friends, I would advise you, as you regard me, and as you regard your own honour, not to irritate, by any act of yours, those who oppose me; shew your feelings in the same orderly manner as you have this day, and then, gentlemen, you will take all shew of complaint from our opponents. To-morrow, gentlemen, I will shew you a number of my friends on the hustings; they will be accompanied, not by cavalry, no nor by cossacks *(great applause)*, but by established infantry. The Duke of Wellington, after gaining the battle of Waterloo, being asked what troops conduced most to that glorious victory, answered, my Spanish infantry, meaning those English soldiers that served with him in Spain. It is upon the infantry we depend for victory; there are no troops equal to good infantry. Who is he, acquainted with the history of his country, that does not know the greatest victories were gained by infantry. Gentlemen, I have but a few more words to say. Conduct yourselves with that moderation that becomes Englishmen, and

follow not the example that that unfortunate cavalry has set you. Gentlemen, it is my wish to bring the contest to a conclusion, in order that you may return to your several occupations."

Mr. Long Wellesley then returned thanks and left the hustings, cheered by the greatest assemblage we ever witnessed out of the metropolis.

*Third Day, June 26.*—On our arrival at the hustings we found Mr. Methuen addressing the freeholders: his subject appeared to be the "coalition." The hon. gentleman said, "I have this day brought a Bible with me, and, with the consent of the High Sheriff, will here, in the face of the whole county, swear that I formed no coalition." *(Loud cries of no, no; we believe your word).* Mr. Benett's brother then came forward and said, no gentleman could doubt Mr. Methuen's word. Mr. Methuen then resumed, and advised his friends to avoid all tumult, and retired.

Mr. Long Wellesley, as usual, accompanied by a large body of hi friends, arrived at the hustings about ten o'clock, and after the band had played the national air of God save the King, addressed the voters to the following effect:—"Gentlemen, it is not my intention to address you at any length; I will merely relate a circumstance which may entertain you. You will recollect a letter which appeared in the papers about Mr. Thos. Pik, (at this time Mr. Benett and his party arrived, and with all that politeness which is observable in that gentleman's adherents, interrupted Mr. L. W.'s address, nor did we notice any alacrity in Mr. Benett, who was on the hustings at the time, to stop such proceeding). As soon as the discordant sounds of the instruments ceased to vibrate upon the ears of the auditors, the hon. gentleman resumed: "I believe, gentlemen, we ended at Mr. T. Pick; Mr. T. Pick I never saw until yesterday. I then saw him at the ordinary where I dined. He said as follows: 'Sir, that letter was written for me, and it did contain the truth: I am a poor man, and have a wife and eight children, and Mr. John Gale Everett did tell me that unless I voted for Mr. Benett, he would turn me out of his employ: I have, Sir, for all that, come to vote for you, and hope that you will protect me.' You are, Sir, said I, an independent man, and shall be protected in the exercise of your elective franchise; this circumstance, gentlemen, should, in my opinion, damp the cause of my opponent; it proves, gentlemen, in opposition to the statement of an anonymous writer, that what I averred in my letter was an incontrovertible truth; mine are no sly insinuations; they are bold like that conduct which has marked my every action through life. Gentlemen, I now thank you for your orderly behaviour, and will in the course of this day, produce before you Mr. Thomas Pick."

A conversation in the course of the morning was begun with some warmth by Mr. G. Everett, who called Mr. Wellesley to account for some expressions made use of in his morning address to the freeholders, respecting what he said in the affair of Mr. T. Pick. Mr. W. in a calm and candid manner was relating the substance of that transaction, but from the many interruptions he received from Mr. Gale Everett, he said he would again state to the freeholders, in the presence of that gentleman, what he said in the morning; this was at first objected to by Mr. Everett, Mr. B. and his friends, but Mr. L. W. being determined to discharge his duty to the freeholders, offered to appeal to the Sheriff as to the regularity of his conduct. Mr. G. E. then appeared with Mr. W. on the hustings. The latter gentleman spoke to the following effect: "Gentlemen, I trust to your candour that you will hear patiently; and if I have in any instance mis-stated any circumstance, or said any thing disrespectful of Mr. Everett, I will here publicly ask the gentleman's pardon; but, gentlemen, I shall in so clear a manner prove what I this morning averred, that it will remove every shadow of doubt from the minds of all." (Mr. Everett's feelings becoming strong, and interrupting, Mr. Wellesley was obliged to request the gentleman to allow him to proceed;) Mr. L. W. then proceeded: "Gentlemen, Mr. Thos. Pick did certainly promise me his vote, and what I caused to be published in the papers are to all intents and purposes facts—undeniable facts. I shall, shortly, gentlemen, present Mr. Pick; (here Mr. E. with a great deal of warmth and seeming triumph, told Mr. L. W. that it was Pike, not Pick); wonderful! Pick or Pike, as you will have it, will soon be presented to you, and prove again the truth of what I say. I, gentlemen, aver that the letter, which appeared in the papers, signed T. Pick, or Pike, was written by or for the identical person whom I shall present to you. He (Mr. T. Pick) informed me yesterday, before forty gentlemen, that he was determined to vote for me, and that Mr. Everett, this gentleman (pointing to Mr. E.), said, if he voted for me, he would discharge him from his employ.—Mr. Everett commenced by stating that he would, at his first outset, take the gentleman short. "This letter, signed T. Pick, was sent to Mr. Timbrell, and not to Mr. Wellesley. To the best of my recollection, the conversation that passed between me and Pike was to this effect. Pike said that he promised his vote to Mr. Wellesley, I then remarked to him that common courtesy ought to induce him to consult me before he promised his vote. I appeal to you, gentlemen, and to this gentleman (turning towards to Mr. L. W.), if I had not reason to expect from him this mark of respect." Mr. Wellesley replied, in a most energetic manner, and enforced his first proposition, adding, that he considered

that man who would, by any undue means, strive to awe a voter into the ranks of those whom his heart did not approve, as a man not acting constitutionally. I certainly agree, said he, with Mr. G. Everett, that it would be a mark of respect from a man to his master, to consult him on a subject so important as that of returning a member to the Imperial Parliament; but, gentlemen, continued he, did any man dependent on me—were his obligations of the greatest magnitude—was he, gentlemen, to come and tell me it was his wish to vote for any other gentleman, I would say, act according to your conscience, and God bless you. The greater those obligations, the less, gentlemen, would I presume to bias him; and he, as well as you, gentlemen, who rally under the colours of my opponent, would find me when my services were wanting,—a friend. *(Applause from all)*. Several rejoinders passed between Mr. Everett and Mr. L. W. but from the heat which Mr. Everett displayed we passed them over, not willing to give publicity to what would, in our opinion, hurt the feelings of a respectable man. Mr. L. Wellesley concluded this interesting discussion by saying, "Gentlemen, you will not find me, throughout this contest, a hot hair-brained Irishman, but a cool, honest, warm-hearted Englishman."

On the the arrival of Mr. Long, the late Member, Mr. Wellesley again addressed the voters thus: "Gentlemen, I heard yesterday a great deal about coalition,, and something about the glorious contest of 1772; there are, I have no doubt, amongst the vast body of freeholders, several who remember that contest, (you were not there, said one of the troop,) I should be unhappy, said Mr. L. W. very unhappy, to be there, my good Sir; then, instead of being young, and willing heartily to engage in your service, I would be old, perhaps eighty-two years of age, and nearer to a narrower home than the gentleman who made the remark at present possesses; but, gentlemen, though I have not been there, yet if any man can read, an accomplishment which that gentleman has not in all probability attained,—I repeat, if any man who can read, and has studied the history of this county, a study which I hope I have not neglected, must know that the contest of 1772—that glorious contest, was terminated by an unfortunate relative of mine, Sir James Long.—His character, and his purse, gained it; yes, gentlemen, Sir James Long, with a few light troops, established your independence at that time; and, gentlemen, I, an unfortunate stranger, but allied to that honourable family, will, with the assistance of the same kind of troops, assert and gain your independence at this time; and I assure you, gentlemen, that the cavalry will be obliged to seek their safety as a beaten enemy would by a speedy flight."

After the state of the poll was declared, Mr. Methuen thanked the freeholders for the honour they had done him by placing him at the head of the poll; and said, that his friends were now convinced, by the state of the poll, that his election was sure; he, therefore, thought that the story of coalition was entirely disbelieved.

The usual symphony of hisses, groans, &c. announced to us that Mr. Benett was on the hustings; that gentleman, by the great exertions of Mr. Long Wellesley, obtained something like a hearing; but whether he studied under Demosthenes or Cicero, or any of the ancient orators, we cannot say, but so entirely different was his manner from that of modern orators, that astonishment arrested the pen, and hinder us from giving the detached sentences that dropped from his mouth. He said something about the promise he made before of gaining upon his opponent. His speech, like the half impelled wheel, reverted continually to the same subject. The gentleman retired amid the delectable sounds of goose music.

Mr. L. Wellesley (cheered from all quarters) then came forward, and said, "If, gentlemen, the success which the hon. gentleman boasts of is gratifying to him, I am very happy that he feels gratified. Gentlemen, I have at present on the ground one hundred and forty unpolled voters, and those will the first thing to-morrow morning give their voices for me. This, gentlemen, added to the numerous arrivals which I expect to-morrow, will place me proudly pre-eminent over my opponent.—Gentlemen, another circumstance conduced to the gratification of the gentleman; a carriage with a number of my friends, broke down, and hindered them from arriving in time to poll; I have, gentlemen, a habit of rising late, and as I am seldom put out of my way, I indulged that propensity this morning, and my friends seem to have followed my example; no doubt they stopped to have a comfortable breakfast, and by that means gave an advantage to my opponent. To-morrow, gentleman, will be a proud day for us, and will prove, that however others may be buoyed up by this apparent success, I will be finally successful; and I will, as I generally do, and as I believe the hon. gentleman does, go to church on Sunday with a mind calm as it is at present. Notwithstanding all that has been said about coalition, I shall beg to say a few words on this subject: there is no coalition between me and Mr. Methuen: but, gentlemen, I must say that I have the highest respect for Mr. M. and feel happy, very happy at his success. I now again call upon my friends to come forward and prove to the gentleman who feels so gratified, that my triumph is certain."

## *Falsehoods—Evasions—Misrepresentations.*

I. Mr. L. Wellesley represents the Friends of Mr. Benett as under the influence of Clubs and Magistrates, whom he calls a *notorious* Quorum;—it is a notorious falsehood.

II. He affirms that—had it not been for Mr. Benett the Corn Bill would *never have been thought of;*—he alone would have *thought* of imposing such a falsehood on the inhabitants of the county.

III. He represents the Corn Bill as oppressive to the Poor, thus endeavouring to excite disaffection and tumult;—but all the world knows that he voted for the Corn Bill himself.

IV. He affirms that he did not apply at the Treasury with intent to injure Mr. Salmon, of Devizes; it is proved that he did apply to the Treasury clerk. On that subject his pitiful shifts, evasions, and falsehoods, are endless.

V. He asserts that the disorder and tumult at Devizes on the day of Nomination, arose from those who wore Mr. Benett's colours and no others; five thousand persons at least know that this is a falsehood.

Brother Freeholders—Pause, reflect, and contrast with this train of falsehood, the ingenious and gentlemanly conduct of Mr. Benett and Mr. Methuen.

A FREEHOLDER.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—I beg leave again to congratulate you upon the certain prospect of Mr. Benett's election as a representative in Parliament for this county, and upon the evident decrease of the ill founded prejudices against him. It is surely high time that the disgraceful mode of hostility adopted against that gentleman should cease. That a "stranger," a "court candidate," a "thick-and-thin" ministerial member of Parliament should be a favourite with the populace, is most certainly new in the annals of elections; and it is with great pleasure I see that the lower classes now begin to perceive their blunder; for should this system of intimidation succeed, I fear we shall be called "Moon-Rakers" to all eternity. These misguided people think that

Because Mr. Benett recommended the keeping out foreign wheat at a time when the produce of this country fetched but 30*s*. or 40*s*. a quarter, he is answerable for the Corn Bill that afterwards passed in Parliament, and must be a man that wishes to starve the poor. (It should not be forgotten that Mr. Long Wellesley voted for this Corn Bill.)

Because Mr. Benett recommended the planting of potatoes in all small waste pieces of ground, he must be a man that thinks potatoes food good enough for the poor.

And because Mr. Benett recommended the mixture of barley-meal with wheaten flour in times of scarce crops of wheat, he must be a man that thinks barley food good enough for the poor.

What can be more absurd than for beings deemed rational to think as above? What can be more wicked than to misrepresent Mr. Benett's evidence in the House of Peers, and to foist it upon the public in the manner that it has been printed by the degraded Hunt? A. B.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN.—The little ground I have lost this day, has arisen purely from accidental circumstances. At the moment that the poll was closed, the booths were crowded with my friends giving their votes, one hundred and forty of whom were then on the ground, and could not be polled from not being up in time. Had they arrived half an hour earlier, I should have more than maintained my majority. Every exertion was made, every nerve strained by Mr. Benett to place himself above me to-day. With all those exertions he was unable to attain his object; and I speak with the most perfect confidence when I state to you that to-morrow night an end will be put to the exultations of Mr. Benett and his friends, by your seeing me with a majority so commanding, that there will no longer be a doubt of my success.

I am, Gentlemen, your devoted faithful servant,

*June* 26, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

STATE OF THE POLL THIS DAY.

*Long Wellesley*, 792; *Methuen*, 1273; *Benett*, 781.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—The decided majority of which I have to boast demands my best thanks and acknowledgements to those freeholders who have done me the honour of contributing to my success.

The circumstance of my not having a larger number of voters on this day is the most satisfatory refutation of the false charge of a coalition, as each Candidate polled a number of single votes, and I divided many with each of the other Gentlemen.

However triumphant my superiority, let me entreat my friends to continue their present exertions, nor relax in the smallest degree their endeavours to secure my election, as long as the Poll remains open, however high I may be placed upon it through their kindness and activity.

Fully aware of the value of the support which I have met with, and highly grateful for the warm manner with which the county at large has received me,

I have the honour to subscribe myself, Gentlemen,

Your most devoted and grateful humble servant,

*Salisbury, June* 27, 1818. PAUL METHUEN.

STATE OF THE POLL THIS DAY:—

*Methuen,* 1586; *Long Wellesley,* 1105; *Benett,* 934.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—The events which have hitherto taken place during the Poll, cannot discourage us from persevering in the glorious contest in which we are engaged, to secure the independence of the county, and to maintain the freedom of election.

The numerous friends which I have yet unpolled in many districts, and particularly in the northern hundreds of the county, whom it has hitherto been impossible to bring forward, will very shortly shew by their presence and support at the Poll, which of the two Candidates are ultimately to be the choice of the independent freeholders, and to enjoy the distinguished honour of representing you in Parliament.

My opponent, Mr. Wellesley, has obtained a transient superiority on the Poll, from unforeseen circumstances. Many of my friends have been prevented from presenting themselves by the system of terror acted upon before and since the commencement of the election, wholly incompatible with the rights of the electors and the principles of the constitution. But the triumph which is gained by such extraordinary means cannot be of long duration.

All obstructions at the place of election are removed, and my friends may come to the hustings without danger or insult. Be not intimidated, Brother Freeholders, the day of our triumph is near.—I remain, Gentlemen,

Ever your most obedient and devoted servant,

*June* 27, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,—The predictions of my friends are realized, and your exertions in my favour have nearly doubled that majority by which I stood distinguished on Thursday's Poll. When I threw myself upon the kindness of the freeholders of Wiltshire, I founded my hope of success upon a knowledge of the firmness of their principles and the independence of their character.

I regretted that I was personally a stranger among you, but I felt that you would consider with liberality and indulgence, the circumstances which gave me that close and deep-rooted connection with your interests, which nothing can remove or destroy; this you have done, and my gratitude for it has inspired me with a zeal for your interests more ardent than the casual advantages of birth, upon which my opponent founds so much of his pretensions to your favour, could have done.

Your zealous support this day does not suffer me to entertain a doubt of our ultimate success, but it is not enough that our triumph should be finally secure, it must be prompt, conspicuous, and decisive.

No object can be more desirable, or is nearer my heart, than the restoration of tranquillity and harmony to this great and opulent county; the best means of effecting it will be by the early and strenuous exertions of my friends to procure for me such an overwhelming majority on the Poll, as must deprive my opponent of all hopes of success, and leave any ill-advised continuance of the struggle to be ascribed to other motives, than a rational expectation of representing you in Parliament.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your devoted faithful servant,

*June* 27, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

THE HUSTINGS, June 27.

FREEHOLDERS.—The underneath *voluntary affidavit* of most respectable persons, just put into my hands, has been particularly pleasing to me, as it clearly evinces that *my friends* are most desirous to maintain the *public tranquillity*, and effectually repels the *unfounded* accusation brought against them of exciting tumult.

Let me implore of them to conduct themselves with the moderation and temper they are now doing, as they will do honour to the character of Englishmen, and ensure to themselves and me a proud triumph.

I am, Gentlemen, your devoted faithful servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

(COPY.)—*Wilts, to wit.*—The several informations of William Pearce, cabinet-maker; William Payne, yeoman; and Jeremiah Payne, oat-meal maker; all of Warminster, in the said county, taken before me, Thomas Hele Phipps, Esq. one

of his Majesty's justices of the peace, in and for the said county, this 26th day of June, 1818, who on their oaths say—That they were standing in the Market-place at Warminster, in the said county, on the evening of the 25th of June instant, to see the return of the freeholders and others who had that day been to a contested election for Knights of the Shire for the said county; and that a person standing behind the carriage of John Whitaker, Esq. of Fairwood, in the said county, wearing the colours of John Benett, Esq. one of the candidates for the said county, passing the people, struck several of them, without any provocation whatever, several violent blows with a large stick; and that no violence was offered on the part of the people until after they had received several blows from the person behind the said carriage. (Signed) W. PEARCE,
W. PAYNE,
JER. PAYNE.

*Sworn before me, Thomas Hele Phipps.*

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## WILTS ELECTION.

At the close of the Fourth Day's Poll, on the numbers being announced by the Sheriff, Mr. Wellesley came forward, and thus addressed the freeholders:—

"Gentlemen,—It is always painful to me when compelled to speak of *family*; it is always with pain when I speak of *mine*. Unroll those banners. (The man who carried them unrolled them.) The first spot (the crest) which rides on them, was conferred for the salvation of India, the union flag for the capture of Seringapatam, and the colours Wellington blue. Gentlemen, I am proud of my family; it is my pride to be related to such men as the Marquis Wellesley and the Duke of Wellington; I am proud of it, but I don't build upon it; nor should I at all have attended to it, but for what has fallen from the honourable gentleman. While I continue to act honest and upright, I'll tell the man, whoever he may be, that in point of family, there is no county in England would be disgraced by returning me their representative. *(Loud cheering.)* I am supported by the family of the Longs, and I tell those who do not like it, that I am very much pleased in that; and I'll tell them more, that the family of Long is the family of *independence*. They belong to the good old times; they have been long known in the county, they came early to the country, were ennobled in the county, and had the baronetcy granted them for the faithful attachment of their chief to his Sovereign. *(Applause.)* The Long family do possess great influence in the county; but I'll tell those who complain of it, that that influence has never been employed to injure the free-

holders. *(Bravo! bravo!)* Is there a man amongst you that can believe for one moment that any thing like undue influence has been used by me or my friends? I had no means of securing the voice of the county—I had no one to support me from old friendships. I stand insulated and alone, destitute of those attachments inspired by the friendly bottle or the pleasures of the fox hunt. In such limited circles influence may successfully be used; but who can purchase the voice of a county? Such a circumstance is impossible.

"The history of the country knows nothing of what is called the great interest! The great interests to which I look are the manufacturing and agricultural interests. (*Applause.*) And that I have got, and is it a disgrace to the family of the Longs to support a Candidate so honourably supported? I shall never deny their interest. I disclaim the interference of aristocratic influence; I am supported by respectable tradesmen. Go to Salisbury, there you will find that they vote for me in opposition to the wishes of their best customers. I am supported by Mr. Penruddocke, by the Long family, by General Popham; I have the support of Mr. Saunders, of Bradford, is *that* the Long influence? But the best friend I have to boast of is the malignant slanders that have been raised against my character. I have not been long enough in the county for you to form an opinion prejudicial to my character; besides a man's character is not to be known merely by residence. You generally know more of a man's character at a distance than at home. You go abroad to get news. I had no previous acquaintance with you by which you might arrive at it, but you know it now. I stand upon my character, and to that character you have done ample justice. The result of to-day's poll cannot but be gratifying to me. You hear from my opponent that I lead the day's poll one hundred and sixty; I have had the lead every day, I have kept and I intend keeping it until I am your re-representative. (*Cheering.*) I have one hunded voters unpolled, whom I shall be very happy to see to-morrow at Salisbury cathedral, and on Monday I hope I shall see them here. The situation I have got, I mean to keep; I am (to use an old but well-known proverb) "Cock of the walk" to-day, and it is but fair to suppose that I have some influence over those who are before me, my regular infantry. I have nothing to do with cossacks and cavalry.

"This contest has taught me one important lesson. I was early a soldier, and when the measure relative to the yeomanry cavalry was before the House, I certainly was of opinion that no danger could arise from cultivating a military spirit. I admire yeomanry cavalry in their proper place; they are a good, but they are an evil when employed to inti-

midate a public meeting, and of all meetings one for the purpose of returning representatives to Parliament; whether disguised or undisguised. It is unconstitutional in the highest degree. For myself I have no right to complain of it. The transactions at Devizes and at Wilton have made me the popular Candidate. I will make use of my influence with you in requesting you not to irritate them. It is truly gratifying to me to think that you have committed no riot, no act of tumult:—go on so. I shall have other opportunities of addressing you, as Mr. Benett will find to his cost; and when too late will acknowledge, that I was his best friend when I told him not to spend his own money, nor make me spend mine."

Mr. Wellesley was repeatedly cheered while delivering this address, and the people separated in the most peaceable manner.

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*To the Editor of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

MR. EDITOR—Please to insert the following advertisement for your's, E. C.

Wanted immediately, by the chairman of Mr. Wellesley's Committee, a new Dictionary: the more abusive epithets and genteel words for conveying falsehoods to the public the better.—N. B. It must be bound in ass's skin, edged with brass.—Price no object.

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*TRUTH against FALSEHOOD.*

*INDEPENDENCE against PERSECUTION.*

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*The Advertiser in the Salisbury Journal, E. C.*

Is hereby respectfully informed, that all copies of the said Dictionary were bought up by Mr. C. Bowles, and by him were wisely ordered to be burnt,—but his officious servant *Timothy* opened one which he left carelessly in the window,—thence stolen by one of the cut *fingered* gentry, *in the service.*

The above is a *black* letter copy, stained with———. The outside was richly ornamented with five brazen Moons, with A. B. E. C. and many other Letters ingenuously—no, no, ingeniously concealed. The Moon in first quarter and at *full* were carefully taken off and beaten, to make an *edge* for the same—Happy to state that the old *Moon* (*Raker*), the Moon in wane, and the Moon in eclipse still remain. This copy fell into the hands of the *Advertiser's* old *Friend*, the chairman of Mr. Long Wellesley's Committee, which is ever, and always has been most sacredly closed up, till he receives a mandate from Mr. Benett's *wiser* friends. It is then opened and used, (never without an order from them), and again instantly sealed. Mr. Long Wellesley on seeing it, dash'd it

down with disdain, and broke the clasps and chains with which it was encompassed.

Beware of the Ass's heels!
(Who scorns to kick the dying Lion,)

Whose shoes were *newly cocked up* on Saturday, and which will be increased in size every evening, till Mr. Benett's Friends are out of reach.

"Nothing but the Truth" from hence.

Scandal and Falsehood at the general Shop t'other side.

*Leave me, leave me to repose.*

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LOST—From the side pocket of Mr. Benett's principal Agent, a list of Voters who have no Votes; of promises never to be performed; of régimental orders for moving off by one at a time, and forming in the hollow, then to march back in a body to the hustings, to play the game of Humbug.

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FOUND near the Hustings, in the vicinity of Wilton, a *Pocket Book*, bound in calf, supposed to belong to the *Chairman* of *Mr. Benett's Committee*, and containing the following memorandums, but of no use even to the owner:—

Mr. Benett's Professions of Independence.

Captain Calley's Reinforcement from Cricklade.

Narrative of the attempt to turn Leaseholds into Freeholds,

The pleasures of Hope.

Dissertation on the length and circumference of gentlemen's riding sticks.

Essay on boasting, by a fellow of Brazen-nose College.

The number of Tickets issued for the Ball to celebrate Mr. B.'s return.

The advantages of "local knowledge,"—"high honour,"—"500 years genealogy,"—"active magistracy,"—"agricultural speculations,"—"interest of the Quorum, and support of the Clubs!" N. B. Very imperfect and very much soiled!

As the contents of the pocket-book have been of no advantage to the owner or his friend, it cannot be conceived to be of much use to the present possessor. He will restore it to the owner free of expense, provided he will promise to bequeath it to *The Old Moon-Raker*, to be placed amongst the trophies of his fame, and which are so much to the honour of *his true Wiltshire Family!!*

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10,000 GUINEAS REWARD will be paid for the discovery of TOM CALLEY's Majority, supposed to have been lost between Cricklade and Wilton, while proceeding to the latter place to insure the return of JOHN BENETT, Esq. for the county of Wilts.

N. B. The money will be paid as soon as it can be procured.

## WILTSHIRE RACES, 1818.

### A HANDICAP PURSE

To be run for on the last day, by consent of the Steward, by broken down and beaten Horses.—To start at the double distance post, and steeple hunt it, to Pythouse.—All disputes to be determined by his Reverence the Duke of Lake.——*The Horses already expected to start, are—*

| | *Riders.* | *Colours.* | *Qualifications.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Illweed's Corn-bill, by Self-interest | A. Shark | Soiled Blue and Scarlet | Beat hollow for the Freeholders' Plate. |
| Mr. Blusterer's Parole, by Boaster | T. H. Westbury | Black | Fell lame for ditto. |
| Mr. Call-ye-names' Bludgeon, by Trooper | A. Boxer | Blue with Red Collar | Broke down for the Cricklade Stakes |
| Mr. Distributor's Great Fish, by Folly | W. Magistrate | Doubtful | Run wrong side of the Post. |
| Mr. Use's *Great Cry and Little Wool*, by Dotage | W. Groaner | Yellow | Very unsound. |
| Mr. Bawler's No Voter, by Impudence | H. Chilmark | Pyt-house Mixture | A half-bred. |
| Major Catholic's Bricks and Mortar, by Jail Contractor | The Pope | Blood Red | *White Feather Weight.* |
| Mr. Manager's Prime Agent, by Necessity | A. Moonraker | Annatto | Badly trained and conditioned. |
| John Hibberd's Esq. Neutrality, by Sweeper | W. Canon | Smokey Black | None. |

Squire T. King's celebrated horse Triumph, who beat L. Rivers' monopoly by Musty Record. Mr. Marshwood's Country Gentleman, and Mr. Wind-him's Member by Goodluck, were considered too well-bred to start.

*Steward of the Races, by special permission, the Moonraker's Man.*

CLERK *and* CLEARERS *of the Course*, "THE TROOP."

☞ It is expected there will be, for the amusement of the freeholders, a pugilistic contest between Noisy Tom and a Cricklade hero.

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## *Bulletin Extraordinary:*——JOHN BENETT, ESQ.

THE state of this gentleman's health is at present very precarious, and has excited no inconsiderable degree of alarm amongst his friends. His medical attendants are of opinion, that without the aid of a miracle, he will never recover from the effects of the blows which he has received upon the *Poll* for these last seven days. The exercise of his morning and afternoon's ride has rather increased than diminished the fever. He has undergone a copious *bleeding*, but the *delirium* remains unabated. Opiates have been resorted to, to procure a temporary repose, but in vain. *Change of air* is now the only thing that can save him, and a journey to France has now become a measure, not of *choice*, but of *necessity;* although it should

remove him for a time from the presence of that public "*in whose affections he is daily gaining ground!!*"

J. QUORUM, M. D.
Y. CAVALRY, M.D.
D. CLUB, M.D.

*Committee Room, White Hart Inn,*
*July 2*, 1818

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*Great Cry and Little Wool;*
OR REDUCTION DESCENDING;
OR
TOM CALLEY'S 900 VOTERS
FOR JOHN BENETT,
*Reduced to Nine!*

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the authority of the printers of the Salisbury and Winchester Journal, for informing you that the very partial and incorrect statement of the proceedings of the Wiltshire election, in the third page of their paper of this day, was sent to them by Mr. Long Wellesley's agent, and will be charged for as a common advertisement. You who have witnessed the proceedings of the election, and have read this false account of them, judge what credit is due to the persons who can fabricate such falsehoods. I am,

Your very faithful and obedient servant,

*Salisbury, Monday, June 29*, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

No expressions of mine can do justice to the feelings of gratitude your conduct inspires. From the commencement of this arduous contest to the present hour, I have, through your exertions, been constantly placed above my opponent on the Poll; and the daily increase of the majority over him, confirms my confidence in our ultimate success. All my predictions are verified, and I continue to receive hourly proofs of the accession of new friends, and of their unremitting zeal in my support.

You all witnessed, gentlemen, the effort made by my opponent this day to pass me on the Poll. His long talked-of reserve of northern forces has been brought into the field, headed by a new captain, fresh from his own defeat, but whose able generalship no one will venture to dispute. With the ordinary means you put into my hands, I maintained the struggle, and beat him. I shall, with your assistance, continue to do so, till even his most obstinate partisans must despair of his success.

Gentlemen, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for

your unceasing kindness. Let me, however, entreat you not to relax in your efforts; although your enemy is at the last gasp, he has not yet expired. It is for you, at once, to destroy his hopes, and to convince him, however hateful that conviction may be, that I possess the good wishes and confidence of a great majority of the freeholders of the county, and am, in their opinion, a more fit person than he is to represent them.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your devoted faithful servant,

*Salisbury, June* 30, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

STATE OF THE POLL.—SIXTH DAY.

*Wellesley*, 1719; *Methuen*, 2389; *Benett*, 1336.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

IT is with no common feelings of exultation, that I now address you. You are men of no common mould—made for the very times in which you have appeared, and most amply qualified for the duties you have had to perform. You have not deceived me—you have not deceived your country, in the expectations we had formed of your high spirit, of your attachment to freedom, your aversion to injustice and oppression. Free, amongst the free-born, you have shewn that time, that custom, has not been able to root out the love of that liberty to which you were born, which your forefathers bequeathed to you—of which, for nearly half a century, you have been deprived—but which you are now again going to enjoy, and transmit to your posterity. It is impossible to do justice to those virtuous energies which you have manifested; to the steady, cool, and constitutional way in which you have conducted yourselves, during a struggle for all that is dear to you as Englishmen. You have done well—you have acted nobly; persevere, and success is certain. To quote the language of one of those canting hypocrites, whose sole aim has been to mislead you—to divert your attention from what was the true state of the question to what was not—who, in company with his other fellow-labourers, industriously attempted to rivet those chains which had goaded you almost to madness:—"It makes my heart warm," when I see you coming in such troops to rescue your enslaved and degraded county from the grasp of a tyranny, which, though it preserved the forms of law, destroyed the spirit of our constitution. Pretending that all this was done from pure regard to you—to save your time, your trouble, your pockets, to keep the county tranquil, and all the rest of the pretty stories which the Independent Freeholder, the Old Moon-Raker, and the rest of the Quorum band of patriots

were continually dinning in your ears—with which they were constantly disgusting your eyes. They have disappeared, however—they have given up their cause as hopeless—they have left their champion to fight and fall by himself, unprotected and unpitied.

There is something so lovely in freedom, gentlemen, that one would almost be tempted to go greater lengths to obtain it than for any other blessing that I know of; in such cases, we "make a virtue of necessity," and rather do what we can, than what we can warrant. But, in the struggle in which you are engaged, you have conducted yourselves in a way which has brought credit to your cause, and will render your triumph more conspicuously splendid. You judge rightly, in believing with me, that it is enough for an enemy to be beaten, without being insulted. When my adversary is fallen, I forget that he was my foe, and consider him only in the light of a man and a brother. I may be allowed to compassionate what I have been most anxious to produce—what I behold not only without regret, but with exultation. That Mr. Benett should thus become an object of pity even to his enemies, he is entirely indebted to himself, and to the means that have been resorted to, to secure his election. There has been nothing fair in the methods they have employed;—every thing unhandsome has been said of his opponent. The sacrifice of truth has been no object;—no barrier has been found sufficient to arrest the progress of their calumny; it has now become a suicide, its malignancy has deprived it of existence. Like the scorpion, it has stung itself, and died of its venom. You, gentlemen, have affixed the seal to its destruction, by the generous, prompt, and unbiassed support which you are so liberally, so constantly, giving Mr. Wellesley. There is *nothing* done, while there is something to do; continue your exertions in his behalf, he will prove himself worthy of them, place him not only above the reach of danger, but beyond the suggestions of doubt. I do not merely wish him to beat, but also to triumph; and his enemies not only to be vanquished, but cut off from hope. His cause is yours; in him you struggle, in him you overcome. But numbers only will make your triumph perpetual. Exercise your rights in his behalf who first taught your oppressors to respect them; give him your votes, through whom alone you have had the privilege of voting; nor be deterred by the threats of either Quorum or Clubs, nor misled by the artifice they may employ. You have seen, you have heard Mr. Wellesley, you are now fully competent to judge for yourselves; of his talents there can be no doubt, his independence is above suspicion, and his character, though maligned in every possible shape, has risen superior to reproach. The

slanders of his enemies have proved the basis of his fame; he has recovered strength by every fall, and grown confident and courageous as the attacks have been repeated.

I shall not detain you from the important business you have before you, longer than by adverting to one or two publications, evidently intended to damp the laudable zeal you have shewn in behalf of Wellesley and independence. The first of these will be found in the third page of the Salisbury Journal, under the head of "*Falsehoods, Evasions, Misrepresentations.*" In this as on former occasions they have supplied me with the materials for the war, for certainly "*falsehood, evasion, misrepresentation*" were never more strongly depicted than in the letter before me, and which is signed "*A Freeholder.*" It is evident as noon-day that when Mr. W. charges Mr. Benett and his friends with being under the influence of the Quorum and the clubs, he asserts not only what is a truth in itself, but what all the county believes. Should any doubt remain of its certainty, read the list of his Committee—that endless list of 'Squires which have been published with so much pomp; there you will find the Quorum and the clubs, not in their collective capacity I grant you, but in a capacity equally inimical to your freedom and rights. There would not have been half the danger had they come forward collectively—then you would have seen their object at once, and would have been upon your guard; but it is the fraud they have practised upon you, that makes the attempt the more to be dreaded, because less liable to suspicion.

If Mr. Wellesley did affirm that but for Mr. Benett there would have been no Corn Bill, he asserted nothing but the truth. Mr. Benett's evidence before the House of Lords was *voluntary;* he was not compelled to go there; and how came it to pass that he alone, of all the gentlemen invited, should have taken such a distinguished part in a measure, which the generality of the people consider so very obnoxious? Besides, if there were no truth in the allegation, they would not discover so much anxiety to disprove it, with no new materials by the bye, and always with such bad success.

The charge of exciting disaffection and tumult can with no propriety be brought against Mr. Wellesley. He did not come to Devizes on the day of Nomination, with a troop of disguised soldiers, armed with bludgeons weighing from three to four pounds each. He never encouraged the people to hoot and hiss the other Candidates; he never ordered a troop to form for the purpose of obstructing Mr. Methuen's approach to his inn, or compel him, as at Wilton, to wade through horse-hoofs to make his way to the Cross! Who is it that has created all the riots in the county, or attempted

tumults at the place of election;—not Mr. Wellesley, but the troop of Mr. Benett's friends. I was amongst the five thousand who were at Devizes, and what I saw and heard, I must believe; I heard and saw distinctly Mr. Calley (now no longer a member for Cricklade); I saw Mr. Peniston of Salisbury, the serjeant-major of the troop, and many others, but chiefly those two, do every thing by words and signs sufficient to excite the people to tumult. Every thing was done that could irritate the people, while their patience and moderation, after repeated aggressions, were most exemplary. If Devizes had been laid in ashes, it must have been wholly attributable to Mr. Benett's troops; were the Downs to become a scene of riot and confusion, it must be wholly ascribed to the same cause; while their very appearance at the hustings furnishes one of the strongest arguments against Mr. Benett's return. Shall a man so obnoxious to the county, that he cannot appear in the streets by himself, nor even amongst the freeholders whose voices he solicits, without a guard of men armed with bludgeons, sword-sticks, and pistols; shall such a man be deemed a fit and proper person to represent the county of Wilts? Shall a man, whose only claim to your attachment, is the proofs he brings with him how much he is hated, have those honours conferred upon him, which you bestow only upon those you love? Shall not the array with which he is attended, for the purpose of intimidation, open your eyes as to the interest upon which he founds his claim; and in what a contemptible light he holds your elective franchise?—Believe me, gentlemen, such a man must be of all men the most unfit and improper to represent this county. Mr. Wellesley has a different way of courting your regard, and nothing can be more gratifying than to see the way in which you make him a return. Can any thing be so manly, so disinterested, so kind? The Sixth Day's Poll! and Mr. Wellesley—the envied—the abused Mr. Wellesley is nearly four hundred a-head of the man of "high honour," "five hundred years' genealogy," a family without a "sinecurist," "local knowledge," "local interests," "Prize Essays," and "Letters on Tythes," "active magistracy," "Captain of the Yeomanry," "agricultural speculation," "Scotch carts," "blacksmith's wages," "painting and glazing," "fish-ponds, dug by paupers," John Fisher's memoirs, Spanish sheep, French cows, China pigs, Swedish turnips, Irish grass, Tartary oats, and Heligoland beans! Yes, gentlemen, in despite of all these high advantages, Mr. John Benett, for the true honour of *our* "Wiltshire family," is now nearly four hundred votes behind Mr. Wellesley; who they said, by *they* I mean my namesake, but not *a member of my family*, "Timothy

Trueman," I mean the "Independent Freeholder," (who I am pleased and happy to know, and who I shall ever venerate and esteem) "The Old Moon Raker, Toby and Tobias," and all the rest of his assailants, not forgetting A. B.! yes, gentlemen, they said that Mr. Wellesley was every thing but a *devil!* perhaps they would have even said that also, but the lie would have been so *notorious*, for they knew that you had seen him too often to believe that he had "seven heads, ten horns, and a tail as long as a bell rope!" Gentlemen, for your exertions in his cause, I shall ever be grateful, especially if I could but suppose that my feeble efforts have at all been of service to him, or that one reason advanced by me had made but one convert to his cause.

The other paper I meant to have noticed before the conclusion of this address, was, the letter of Mr. Benett of the 24th, which perhaps is one of the most scandalous attempts at misrepresentation that ever came before you. It is so very gross, to be obliged to submit to outrage, and then to be accused of committing it; but this with other things has lost Mr. Benett his election. It was Tom Calley that turned Tom Calley out of Cricklade; it is John Benett that has turned John Benett out of Wilts. Whether he goes to France or not, is a matter of great indifference to me, and equally so to you; he will never again be a Candidate for this county: you have put the finishing stroke to the power of the Quorum. I consider Mr. Wellesley's success to be certain; but do not relax in your endeavours; you are doing a good thing, strive to do it as well as possible. You are the saviours of your county; and your names will be revered in "the Chronicles of Wiltshire;" will be transmitted to posterity, like those of Leonidas of Sparta, or the patriots of Calais! "Be not weary in well doing; in due time ye shall reap if ye faint not." Go on and prosper, ye Alfreds of the present generation!

I am, gentlemen, your faithful friend,

TITUS TRUEMAN.

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*Salisbury, July 2.*

SINCE our last, the contest for the representation of the county has continued with unabating zeal. The return of Mr. Methuen is considered certain; while the friends of Mr. Wellesley and of Mr. Benett are alike confident of success.—In cases of this kind a man's judgment is allowed to yield to his partialities; and a Candidate is never supposed to be beaten till he retires. On the evening of the first day a violent attack had been made on the person of Mr. Tinney, which Mr. Wel-

lesley in strong and pointed terms condemned. Every man must unite in reprobating such a disgraceful method of manifesting opposition to the pretensions of a candidate; for while an agent by fair and honourable means endeavours to secure the return of his employer, he is entitled not only to protection, but to praise for his exertions. We were happy, however, to see that Mr. Tinney was not prevented from attending to the interest of his friend, and extremely gratified at the notice taken of it by Mr. Wellesley; who informed the numerous assemblage before him, that while they conducted themselves peaceably, he was determined to protect them; but if they were guilty of such outrageous behaviour, they put it entirely out of his power to be their friend. In the morning of the second day, a report was circulated that a coalition had taken place between Mr. Methuen and Mr. Benett, with the evident intention of depriving the former of Mr. Wellesley's half votes; and this was no sooner contradicted than a second report was raised that a coalition was formed between Mr. Wellesley and that gentleman, in order to deprive him of Mr. Benett's half votes. Considerable pains were taken by Mr. Methuen to clear himself from the charge, and to prevent the injurious consequences that might arise from it to his cause. He pledged his word and honour, and offered to swear that nothing of the kind had taken place, and that the whole was a fabrication. Lord Folkstone, in behalf of Mr. Methuen, pointed out the inconsistency of supposing that Mr. M. who was so ably supported by the freeholders, should look to any other support than what they were pleased to offer him. Mr. Wellesley united with those gentlemen in exonerating Mr. Benett from all participation in the report, and very pleasantly observed that the idea must have originated in the voters of Mr. Methuen and his own, coming up in the same carriages; and as he never intended making use of his long purse to forward his election, added, if Mr. M. will bring up my voters, God bless him!

Through the whole of the day, the immense numbers that attended the hustings conducted themselves with propriety; and on the Sheriff declaring the state of the poll, the Candidates severally addressed the freeholders. Mr. Methuen thanked them for having placed him at the head of the poll, again disavowed a coalition, and requested a continuance of the exertions of his friends in his behalf, and avowed his determination to serve them faithfully and zealously. He was heard with much attention, and retired amidst the applauses of the populace. We regret that the same degree of courtesy was not afforded to Mr. Benett. Every man has a right to b heard—a prisoner at the bar is even *called* upon for his defence, and how are the

Candidates for the representation of any place, but of all places a county—and that county one of the largest and most populous, the most intelligent and wealthy in the kingdom, to represent *themselves* to the electors—to make good their pretensions—to defend themselves against imputations injurious to their characters or their cause, if they are not allowed a fair hearing. For ourselves we have no feeling, but a desire to see fair play. We cannot conceive a greater curse in the world than a partial press. We have maintained the impartiality to which we pledged ourselves, and the approbation of all parties has been our reward. Whatever Mr. Benett's opinions, his talents, or his character may be—even if he is all that his opponents have made him, he has a right to be heard; and nothing redounds more to Mr. Wellesley's credit than his oft repeated attempts to procure him a hearing. "Gentlemen," (said he) "gratified as I am with the proofs you have given me of your attachment to my cause, I cannot help condemning the conduct you have now displayed to my opponent. Should I lose your votes—should I lose your favour by what I am going to say, I certainly never will countenance the disgraceful conduct I have witnessed. I wish you much to hear Mr. Benett—he has a right to be heard."

On the third day the multitude appeared to have acquired an accession of numbers. Mr. Benett's friends had exerted themselves, and he gained considerably on this day's poll. There was a little sparring between Mr. Wellesley and Mr. Everett, relative to Thomas Pike. When the Sheriff declared the state of the poll, Mr. Methuen came forward and thanked them; Mr. Benett did the same, telling them, "that they would now see that he never meant to deceive them; that he had been promised the votes of the freeholders, and they had come forward to support him." This is the only part of Mr. Benett's speech that was at all audible, the same uproar, notwithstanding the interference of Mr. Wellesley, was continued, and which was only silenced by the appearance of Mr. W. who, after thanking the freeholders, and accounting for the partial advantage that had been gained, assured them of his full confidence of success.

On the fourth day, on the numbers being declared, Mr. Methuen having thanked the freeholders, Mr. Benett came forward, and after a little interruption, addressed the freeholders in the following words: "Gentlemen, this is a day of triumph to me; the great exertions that have been made by Mr. W.'s friends has given him the superiority over me today. His banners have been waving in all directions; no doubt very much to Mr. W.'s satisfaction, and greatly to the amusement of the ladies who attended him. They did great

credit to the artist that painted them, I hope he lives in the county. (Mr. W. said, Salisbury) I am glad of it, they do him credit. I advert again to the great exertions that have been made against me to-day, from the north and the south. I have been opposed by all the great interests of which Mr. Wellesley is so proud. I have had Long heads and Long purses [here Mr. W. interrupted him] to contend with, and they have done their utmost; and what have they done?—they have got Mr. Wellesley a majority of 160; [Mr. W. said 171 on the general poll]—a majority effected by the all-powerful influence of the Longs,—but he trusted that the freeholders would not permit the county of Wilts to become an appendage to the family of Longs, or any other family." Mr. Benett was heard throughout with more attention than formerly; and having shaken hands most cordially with Mr. Wellesley, withdrew.

Sunday intervening, it was evident that great efforts had been made on both sides for the Monday's poll. The news of Mr. Calley's defeat at Cricklade had a visible effect on the spirits of both parties. This gentlemen has warmly interested himself on behalf of Mr. Benett, and a strong reinforcement was expected from him. Throughout the whole of this day the utmost decorum was observed: the faces of contending parties had become familiar to each other; and if they did not exactly shake hands in friendship, they looked at each other without anger. Mr. Wellesley, who, on Saturday, had just polled an equal number with Mr. Methuen, had again the advantage over Mr. Benett; when the three Candidates, having severally returned thanks to the freeholders, retired.

On the sixth day, the voters in Mr. Calley's interest were expected to arrive, and turn the scale in favour of Mr. Benett; but the number this gentleman brought fell considerably short of what was expected. The polling went on very briskly; and it will be seen, by the numbers shewn, that Mr. Wellesley had a majority over Mr. Benett, of 383. To give a detail of the speeches which are made at an election, where the theme is uniformly the same, would require a little more ingenuity than we possess to make them pleasing. Having heard the first you are prepared for the second, while the third refreshes your memory with regard to both. Mr. Benett, in his address, accounted for his standing so low on the poll, by the secession from his cause of several of the first families in the county—amongst whom he noticed the Earl of Radnor, Mr. Penruddocke, &c.—Mr. Wellesley, in reply, observed, that it was impossible to account for this desertion of Mr. Benett, who was well known amongst them,

and their attachment to a stranger—but upon this ground they must have seen something about Mr. Benett that they could not approve of; and, therefore, they had given their support to him, who was a stranger, and had taken it away from a *native* and a *resident*.

On the seventh day the numbers polled were very inconsiderable.

The following has been the state of the poll on each day:

| | *Methuen.* | *Wellesley.* | *Benett.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| First Day, | 185 | 162 | 85 |
| Second Day, | 736 | 504 | 410 |
| Third Day, | 1273 | 792 | 781 |
| Fourth Day, | 1586 | 1105 | 984 |
| Fifth Day, | 1985 | 1454 | 1107 |
| Sixth Day, | 2389 | 1719 | 1336 |
| Seventh Day, | 2637 | 1866 | 1486 |
| Eighth Day, | 2822 | 2009 | 1572 |

Mr. Benett is escorted to and from the hustings by a large body of freeholders on horseback, decorated with his favours. Mr. Methuen goes and returns in his barouche, with purple banners, and occasionally with his band. Mr. Wellesley, who is the popular candidate, with his band and cavalcade, and banners with his armorial bearings, sometimes on horseback; sometimes in his carriage; when in his carriage, drawn by the populace to his inn.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

ANOTHER day's Poll is become another day's triumph, and if my opponent be not now conscious of our superiority, I despair of making him so. Nothing is left for me but to reiterate my thanks for your exertions, and once more to request your attendance at the Poll, to make even more manifest my right, through your means, of being returned your member.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your devoted faithful servant,

W. LONG WELLESLEY.

STATE OF THE POLL.—SEVENTH DAY.

*Long Wellesley*, 1866; *Methuen*, 2637; *Benett*, 1486.

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*Salisbury Journal, Monday, July* 6, 1818.

A FEW gentlemen having expressed their concern that we should have inserted in our last Journal an advertisement containing a "Partial Account" of the proceedings of the Wilts Election, we beg to say that it was sent to us by Mr.

Wellesley's agent, and has been charged to him. The situation it held in our paper with the other advertisements, and the general tenor of the statement, afford ample testimony that such a production could not have come from ourselves. We need hardly add, that we are not authorised to refuse an advertisement, because the contents of it may not happen to be strictly true, or agreeable to our own opinion.

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The election of representatives for this county proceeded till the end of Thursday's poll, when the numbers of the voters were—for

*Methuen*, 2822; *Long Wellesley*, 2009; *Benett*, 1572.

During the whole period of the election, Mr. Benett had been unable to obtain a hearing from the hustings, owing to the interruption he constantly experienced from the persons wearing the colours of Mr. Wellesley (probably not many of them freeholders) assembled in the open space before the building. The addresses of the other Candidates were always listened to with attention, and greatly applauded. Each gentleman remarked every day upon the various incidents which had occurred and the progress of the poll; repeatedly renewing his pledge to serve the country faithfully in the high situation of its Representative, and professing the purest principles of independence. Several disagreeable occurrences, and some popular commotions, which will hereafter be the subject of legal investigation, had happened in the course of the contest; but we deem it better not now to notice them, as it is most desirable for the tranquillity of the county that they should be forgotten, and that the bitterness of contention should entirely cease.

On Thursday evening, after his return from the hustings, Mr. Benett addressed a letter to the High Sheriff, stating that it was not his intention, at this election, to poll any more votes; and thanking him for the strict impartiality and kind attention which he had shewn to himself in common with the other Candidates. He then briefly addressed the respectable body of gentlemen who had attended him during the whole of the election, nearly as follows:—

"Gentlemen, it is with deep regret I have to inform you, that my resources have failed me in the northern and other parts of this county; and I beg to inform you that I consider it fruitless any longer to continue this contest, which I am sure you will regret as much or more than myself. Gentlemen, I beg to return you my most heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your attendance on me, which has been necessary for the safety of my person; and I have only to add, that I hope you, or some of you, will see me safely escorted to my

home." He departed immediately for Pythouse, accompanied by all the horsemen.

A very numerous party of freeholders, in the interest of Mr. Benett, had dined every day at the White Hart, since the commencement of the election. On Thursday also the table was crowded, though their highly honoured friend had already quitted Salisbury. After dinner, when the usual toasts in respect to the King and Royal Family had been given, a gentleman stated to the company present that he was charged to apologize for the absence of Mr. Benett from that table; that when a vacancy was likely to occur in the representation of the county, four months ago, Mr. Benett had offered himself to the choice of the freeholders at large; that he might have been said to have canvassed them during the whole period af his life, spent in the peculiar service of the county, and that he received, throughout the extensive district in which much of that service had been performed, the strongest assurance of almost unanimous support; that when the poll should be published, it would redound no less to the honour of Mr. Benett himself, than to the credit of the respectable freeholders of that district, that they had redeemed the solemn pledge then given to Mr. Benett. It would then appear to all the world, that where that gentleman was most known he was most beloved, and, with very few exceptions, had received from all ranks the most strenuous support; that in other districts, where he was not known, he had also received such promises of support, as seemed to put the event of the election out of all doubt, and fully to justify his professional friends for maintaining him in the contest down to the last moment; but that a system of terror had been established in several parts of the county, by which many freeholders had been intimidated, and dared not to exercise that franchise in his favour; that calumnies and slanderous falsehoods, too gross for repetition in that room, had been attached to that gentleman, and to his friends also, by which many freeholders, who were unacquainted with his real qualities, had been induced to withdraw their support from him as wholly undeserving it, and even to give it to his opponent, with whom they were necessarily unacquainted, in direct violation of the promises which he had received from them. That from that cause alone he was every day inferior to his competitor, who had acquired the triumph of success by such extraordinary means. It was a triumph which the honourable mind of Mr. Benett did not envy. He had retired from the contest more proud of the support which he had received from the noble disinterested friendship of those who knew him, and could not be deceived respecting

him, than he would have been even by complete success, if acquired by violence—by traducing the fair fame of his opponent—or by any species of deception practised upon the freeholders by any person. He concluded by proposing the health of Mr. Benett, as the champion of the independence of Wiltshire, which was drank with the utmost enthusiasm.

On Friday morning the county court was adjourned from the hustings to the Council Chamber in this city. The successful Candidates were conducted thither in processions, which seemed to evince the high estimation in which they were held by their respective friends. The several commercial companies of this city, with banners displayed, and their bands of music, attended them, and every one seemed to partake in the general exultation. On arriving at the Council Chamber, the necessary formalities were gone through, and the High Sheriff declared Mr. Methuen and Mr. Long Wellesley duly elected. Each Candidate returned thanks to his constituents for the great honour which he enjoyed. The formal proceedings of the day being completed, the two knights and a numerous party of their friends dined with the High Sheriff, at the Prince Regent's Hotel, and the evening passed with great harmony.

We have been favoured with the following correct report of the speech made by Mr. Methuen in our Council Chamber on Friday:—

"Gentlemen,—After the many opportunities I have already had of thanking you for the general support which I have met with in the present struggle—after having so repeatedly explained to you the principles which have guided my past, and the determination which I have professed as to my future conduct, I shall feel it unnecessary to detain you at any length in the close of the contest.

"But, gentlemen, high as I estimate the honour which you have now, for the second time, conferred on me—proud as I am of the distinguished situation in which you have placed me, the manner in which you have done it gives an additional value even to the representation of this great county.

"There are also circumstances in the character of this contest most honourable to the county itself, and most gratifying to my feelings. I hail the support which I have met with as a greater compliment to the principle on which it has been given, than to him, individually, who has now the honour of addressing you. The principle of your support has been—never to desert an old member while he acts honestly and conscientiously: and I trust I may congratulate myself, without presumption, on the grounds which have led to so great and triumphant a majority in my favour.

"There are circumstances also most gratifying to my feelings connected with the contest itself. I have been allowed to consider myself unopposed and unobjected to by the kindness of the other parties; I may therefore, indulge more particularly in my triumph, because I do not indulge in it at the expense of the unsuccessful Candidate: to that gentleman I am indebted, and that highly, for his support on a former occasion, and I am happy to take this, and indeed every opportunity, of acknowledging the extent of that obligation. I am the more desirous of declaring this, because, from the situation which I have had the honour to hold, I was of course precluded repaying him that debt of gratitude. But let it not, on this account, be supposed that I have forgot it; private feelings must give way to public duty, and the basis upon which I have stood on this occasion has been strict impartiality and neutrality between the rival Candidates.

"Respect for the county pointed out the line of conduct, and common sense taught me the necessity of it.

"It is also most gratifying to me to find myself supported not by this or that political party,—not by any particular interest, but by the county at large; by the great mass of the agricultural and manufacturing interests; by the members of that respectable body in whose court I am now addressing you; and by the freeholders at large of this great and opulent city.

"Gentlemen, I am aware of the arduous task which I have undertaken; I am aware of the necessity of steering between the extremes of national danger,—between the evils of old abuses on the one hand, and the stride of new opinions on the other. You have bestowed your representation, gentlemen, on a man who knows the value of it,—who goes into the House of Commons with a mind bent on doing his duty,—who looks to no reward but the honour of representing you, and meeting the approbation of his constituents.

"I cannot take leave of you, gentlemen, without expressing my sense of the High Sheriff's conduct and impartiality; though his gentleman-like and honourable mode of acting, his urbanity and suavity of manners, entitle him to a far higher eulogium than it is in my power to convey to him. I must now conclude by thanking you, from the bottom of my heart, for all the kindness which you have heaped, and the high honour which you have conferred, upon me, and by assuring you, that the sacred trust reposed in me shall remain unsullied in my hands."—[*From the Salisbury Journal.*]

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*Salisbury, July* 9.

When we closed the last paper we had not an idea from the accounts we had received of the number of unpolled voters,

and the strength of the opposing parties, that the contest for the representation for this county was so near a close. We had been given to understand from those, whom we conceived were best informed, that the sense of the county was very equally divided. On Thursday, however, Mr. Wellesley continued to gain ground on Mr. Benett, and at the close of the Poll, the numbers were—

*Mr. Methuen*, 2822; *Mr. Wellesley*, 2009; *Mr. Benett*, 1572.

Mr. Methuen as usual, came forward, and with his accustomed eloquence returned thanks: after which Mr. Benett spoke nearly as follows:—"Gentlemen, the state of the Poll is against me—the majority seems tremendous; and had it not been for the strong professions made me, it would almost give me pleasure to decline; but since the Poll has been closed, I have heard of so many voters coming up in my favour, that though I do not wish to put either of the Candidates to further expense (at the same time you must recollect, gentlemen, that the expense falls equally heavy on myself) I yet think it my duty, in justice to my friends who have given me their support, to give those who have arrived an opportunity of testifying their regard for me, however insufficient their votes may be with respect to my success. Should my friends from the north not arrive in the numbers I expect, I shall then probably be able to say what is the line of conduct I ought to pursue." During the delivery of this speech, we perceived many an honest yeoman's eye bedimmed with tears; and it was with great difficulty that Mr. Benett could suppress his feelings. He appeared almost worn out. From the time of our late worthy member's announcement of his resignation, to the first day's polling, he had been indefatigable in his canvass. For the first time, we believe, he was heard with attention; and he retired amid the plaudits of his friends.

Mr. Wellesley then came forward, and after thanking the company for the attention they had shewn his opponent, said, "Instead of presenting you with phantoms from the north, I exhibit before you *men*—Wiltshire men—*North* Wiltshire men—the very men, and their descendants, who achieved the glorious conquest of 1772! This makes my conquest the more *glorious*, because it is more *natural*. Is it too much to say, that my best affections remain with you—that my life shall be devoted to your service? What is there that I do not owe to a county that has done so much for me! Rely on it, gentlemen, the contest is over now—the hon. gent. who has left the hustings, will not favour you with another speech. Your late member who will be returned with me, I am proud to speak of. He has been the guardian of your liberties and your pockets. No man can be more honourable or more indepen-

dent. But, gentlemen, I will endeavour to serve you as faithfully as he has done, and our only rivalry will be a contention for your esteem. To-morrow, gentlemen, I shall address you for the last time, and under a new name—Knight of the Shire—and in seven years hence, I hope I shall see you at Wilton, with the some friendly faces, and that you will there recognize your old friend as "Cock of the Walk!"

"Thursday evening, after his return from the hustings, Mr. Benett addressed a letter to the High Sheriff, stating that it was not his intention, at this election, to poll any more votes, and thanking him for the strict impartiality and kind attention which he had shewn to himself in common with the other Candidates. He then briefly addressed the respectable body of gentlemen who had attended him during the whole of the election, nearly as follows:—

"Gentlemen, it is with deep regret I have to inform you that my resources have failed me in the northern and other parts of this county; and I beg to inform you that I consider it fruitless any longer to continue this contest, which I am sure you will regret as much or more than myself. Gentlemen, I beg to return you my most heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your attendance on me, which has been necessary for the safety of my person; and I have only to add, that I hope you, or some of you, will see me safely escorted to my home." He departed immediately for Pyt-house, accompanied by all the horse-men.

A very numerous party of freeholders, in the interest of Mr. Benett, had dined every day at the White Hart, since the commencement of the election. On Thursday also the table was crowded, though their highly honoured friend had already quitted Salisbury.

On Friday morning Mr. Methuen appeared on the hustings, and briefly returned thanks for the honour they had done him in coming forward to support him; assured them of his attachment to them, and his determination to serve them with fidelity.—Mr. Wellesley then said, "Gentlemen, before we part I must say a few words to you: but I shall have an opportunity at Salisbury of expressing myself more fully. At present, I shall only observe, that having assumed the name of '*Cock of the walk*' with your most hearty approbation, you shall find that in doing my duty as your representative, I will maintain that character. You shall find me sincere—you shall find me active—always where your wishes and my duties ought to see me. I must part, however, with my new name, for one that binds me stronger to you, because it has a reference, not to *conquest* but to *friendship*. *Cock of the walk*, Gentlemen, is to be exchanged for *Knight of the Shire*. It must be so: I

told you that it would be so. The northern lights that were to illumine my opponent's cause have been shrouded in darkness, and, instead of contemplating the Aurora Borealis, you have seen in common with the high spirited sons of Wiltshire, the men of Trowbridge, Bradford, Malmsbury, Cricklade—but names are endless!—and the way in which you have conducted yourselves after having performed your duty to your country and manifested your attachment to me, has been most exemplary. I particularly rejoice that you heard the speech of my opponent last night without interruption. It reminded me of former times, and former scenes. I have seen the English soldier attack his French adversary with courage and intrepidity: I have seen him attack and conquer—but the moment that he beheld the vital fluid flowing from his veins, he would clasp him to his bosom; he would administer the wine and oil; and the animosities of war were lost in the feelings and felicities of humanity: something like this mode of conduct I wish you to adopt; we have overcome—we have vanquished; but it is our neighbours, it is our brethren over whom we have gained the victory. We shall still be neighbourly, we shall still be brotherly; nor shall the little differences, which have been visible on these Hustings find a passage to our homes, or be cherished in our hearts. One word more;—to the High Sheriff I return my most sincere, hearty, and cordial expressions of gratitude, for the just and gentlemanly, impartial and honourable way, in which he has conducted himself during the whole of this arduous struggle. I was unacquainted with the gentleman when I first came into the county; and he with me.—I have seen him, he has seen me, and from this moment I shall consider him my friend; (the High Sheriff most politely bowed to the suggestion) and I have to say on quitting these Hustings, that I never witnessed in the whole of my life, conduct so impartial, so highly honourable to himself, so respectful to the Candidates and the county, as that of the High Sheriff.

They then adjourned to the Council Chamber in Salisbury; Mr. Methuen first, in his barouche, attended by a numerous and respectable body, both on horse and foot, preceded by a band of music, and the different clubs of the city, displaying their banners with various inscriptions, and greeted with the acclamations of the whole populace. Mr. Wellesley, on horseback, followed at a short distance, surrounded by his "ten thousand friends," preceded by bands of music, and the woolcombers of the city, emblematically dressed, headed by their *Bishop*.—After the usual formalities at the Council Chamber had been gone through,

Mr. Methuen said, that it must be evident to the eye of

every one that nothing could have a greater influence upon the minds of the representatives of the people, than the knowledge that they must one day be called to reckon with those who sent them to the House of Commons. He was proud to think that by the handsome way in which they had returned him, that they had fully justified the opinion he had formed of them; and sanctioned the line of conduct he had marked out for himself. He pledged himself that no motives but those of conscientious ones should ever sway his conduct; he would represent them faithfully and to the best of his ability. He said, that under the obligations which he owed to the retiring Candidate, he could not help saying a word or two. He had warmly supported him when first he appeared a Candidate for their favours, and he could not help declaring that he should always feel grateful for his friendship on that occasion. He felt, however, that private feelings ought to give place to public duties, and he congratulated the county upon the glorious stand that they had made for their independence.

It is most gratifying to me, said the hon. gent. to find myself supported not by this or that political party,—not by any particular interest, but by the county at large; by the great mass of the agricultural and manufacturing interests;—by the members of that respectable body in whose court I am now addressing you; and by the freeholders at large of this great and opulent city.

"I cannot take leave of you, gentlemen, without expressing my sense of the High Sheriff's conduct and impartiality; though his gentleman-like and honourable mode of acting, his urbanity and suavity of manners, entitle him to a far higher eulogium than it is in my power to convey to him. I must now conclude by assuring you, that the sacred trust reposed in me shall remain unsullied in my hands."

Mr. Wellesley, evidently overcome by the novelty of his situation, then spoke as follows, though at different times so much affected that he was unable to proceed for several moments:—"Perhaps, gentlemen, it has seldom fallen to the lot of any man to stand before an assembly of persons to whom he stands indebted for favours, in circumstances more distressing than those in which I am placed. The way I came amongst you, the methods that have been taken to misrepresent me, contrasted with the honourable way in which you have returned me, and connected with all the circumstances of the case; I must be divested of the common feelings of a man, did not such conduct touch those feelings most sensibly. I cannot express to you what I do feel, but you will accept the overflowings of gratitude for the more regular expressions of it, and will give me credit for what your conduct has inspired though

language should refuse its aid. I am proud to say that I have not, through the whole of my canvass, resorted to one pitiful art to secure one vote, or make an opposing freeholder more favourable. I was unknown to you;—my character indeed you had heard something of, and were taught not to view it in the most favourable light;—but, gentlemen, I examined my own heart before I came to solicit for yours, and found that there was nothing there but what rendered me a fit and proper person to represent you. I knew that if it had been otherwise, I should have disgraced you and disgraced myself. I shall tell you what stimulated me to come forward to represent this county;—(I mean no reflections on Mr. Benett, I am above returning evil for evil;)—it was not because I thought myself the *fittest* person to represent the county; God forbid I should possess such vanity! There are many gentlemen in the county who would have done honour to your choice; I wrote to some of them, to one gentleman whom I see near me (Mr. Penruddocke), and said, that if he had any idea of coming forward I would decline. I mentioned the names of other respectable gentlemen, and if either of them had come forward, you should not only not have seen me here, but I would have used all my influence to secure their return. But conceiving myself in every point of view as fit a person as the Candidate who has retired; having led a life of independence, and coming forward on such principles, I thought it but fair to you to give you an opportunity of exercising your elective franchise, and to myself, as it enabled me to repay, in some degree, the obligations I am under to some whom tenderness will not allow me to name. I declare that though my wish to represent the county had been long known to my friends, I never knew that Mr. Long intended to retire till he had retired; but the moment I did hear of his retiring from the House, I came instantly amongst you, to restore if possible to that family who had so long represented you, an honour of which you have not deemed me unworthy. With regard to all that has been said on me—all the squibs that have been thrown against me, I solemnly declare that I have not the least unpleasurable feeling. I will take my bitterest enemy by the hand, I will shake him by the hand most cordially, and only consider that while I performed my duty as a Candidate, he had an equal right to express his feelings as a freeholder.——I have only to add, that having been elected by the county to represent them in Parliament, I will do my duty faithfully; in no instance will I betray my trust; I will endeavour to do honour to their generous confidence. I cannot suffer you to depart, however, without bearing testimony in your presence to the conduct of the amiable and estimable gentleman who presides on this occasion,

and who has conducted himself with so much impartiality and urbanity through the whole of this contest. We were unknown before, I am now proud to call him my friend;—I am determined to remain yours."

[Among the company in the Council Chamber, were the ladies of the successful Candidates; J. H. Penruddocke, Esq. and lady; R. Long, Esq. our late member, John Long, Esq. &c. &c. &c.]

The usual ceremony of Chairing was dispensed with; the members instead, walked arm in arm, uncovered, around the Market-place, and thence down Catherine-street, to the Regent's Hotel, where (with the Sheriff and several friends) they dined together. Mr. Johnson, the proprietor of the inn, was very highly complimented by the different gentlemen, for the manner in which the dinner was served up.

Mr. Methuen left Salisbury about twelve on Saturday; and Mr. Long Wellesley on Sunday noon.

*Mr. Methuen's return to Corsham.*—The return of P. Methuen, Esq. to Corsham, on Saturday, from his successful election at Wilton, was welcomed by various demonstrations of joy in the different towns through which he passed. At Melksham, he was met by several gentlemen on horseback (many of whom had ridden over from Corsham,) bearing flags with inscriptions appropriate to the occasion. Mr. M. was drawn by the populace through the town, staying for a few minutes at the King's Arms Inn, where he addressed himself, in a concise but energetic manner, to the assembled company, and gave orders for the distribution of a quantity of beer. As the procession drew near to Corsham, it was met by a numerous assemblage of pedestrians, bearing branches of laurel decorated with ribbands, and ornamental flags, accompanied by a band of music. The horses were again taken from the carriage, and Mr. Methuen was drawn to his mansion by the people, passing through the town amidst the loudest acclamations. Previous to his leaving the carriage, he addressed the company in an eloquent speech replete with manly sentiment and patriotic expression; in the course of which he politely expressed his thanks for the repeated proofs that had been given him of public approbation, especially during the eventful contest in which he had been so recently engaged; declaring that the most gratifying to his feelings of the events connected therewith was the cordial reception which he then experienced, from those whom he had known so long, and whose exertions in his behalf, and good wishes for his success had been alike eminently displayed. He then informed the populace that there would be a plentiful distribution of strong beer at the diffe-

rent inns, and invited a numerous company of gentlemen to a repast that had been provided in the spacious hall of his princely mansion. Many appropriate toasts were given; and upon the health of "The heir to Corsham-house" being drank, the interesting child (about five years of age) was introduced, and returned his thanks for the honour they had shewn him. The company separated highly pleased with their entertainment; and the evening was concluded without any disorder or accident.

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## *Wiltshire Election.*

### STATE OF THE POLL.

| FIRST DAY. | | SECOND DAY. | | THIRD DAY. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Methuen | 185 | Mr. Methuen | 736 | Mr. Methuen | 1273 |
| Mr. Long Wellesley | 162 | Mr. Long Wellesley | 504 | Mr. Long Wellesley | 792 |
| Mr. Benett . . | 85 | Mr. Benett . . | 410 | Mr. Benett . | 781 |

| FOURTH DAY. | | FIFTH DAY. | | SIXTH DAY. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Methuen . . | 1586 | Mr. Methuen . | 1985 | Mr. Methuen . | 2400 |
| Mr. Long Wellesley | 1105 | Mr. Long Wellesley | 1454 | Mr. Long Wellesley | 1724 |
| Mr. Benett . | 934 | Mr. Benett . . | 1107 | Mr. Benett | 1345 |

| SEVENTH DAY | | EIGHTH DAY. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Methuen . | 2637 | Mr. Methuen . | 2822 |
| Mr. Long Wellesley | 1866 | Mr. Long Wellesley . | 2009 |
| Mr. Benett : . | 1486 | Mr. Benett | 1572 |

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I LOSE no time in returning you my warmest thanks for having a second time conferred upon me the high honour of representing you in the House of Commons.

The unanimity with which my pretensions have been received, and the approbation which has been expressed of my Parliamentary conduct through the whole of the present contest, give an additional value to the honour of the situation itself, and confirm those feelings of gratitude towards you with which my heart has been so long animated.

If any inducement were wanting to ensure my perseverance in that independent line of conduct which I have hitherto maintained, I should find it in your good opinion and support; and I shall consider this the proudest day of my life, when, after six years trial, I have had again committed to me the sacred trust of guarding your rights and liberties, and watching over the local interests of this opulent and extensive county.

With a heart full of gratitude, and with a determination to do my duty by you honestly and conscientiously,

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful and devoted Servant,

*Sarum, July 3,* 1818. PAUL METHUEN.

## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE arduous contest in which we have been engaged, is at an end, and our triumph is as complete as it is glorious. You have refused to wear the chains with which it was attempted to shackle you, and have for ever secured your independence.

Having vanquished our opponent, let us in the spirit of Englishmen use our victory with moderation. Let us cease to remember that we have been opposed to each other, and at once return to our former habits of peace and harmony.

So far as I am personally concerned, I will forget all the calumnies by which I have been assailed, and not only forgive, but thank my calumniators for the opportunities they afforded me of wiping off every stain upon my reputation, and establishing myself in your regard.

Gentlemen, by your means I am placed in the proud situation to which my ambition dared to aspire. It shall be the great object of my future life to deserve the confidence you have placed in me by a faithful discharge of my duties, and a constant attention not only to the general business of the Empire, but to the peculiar interests of this enlightened county.

I once more return my sincere thanks for the honour you have done me, and remain, Gentlemen,

Your devoted faithful servant,

*Salisbury, July* 3, 1818. W. LONG WELLESLEY.

FINAL STATE OF THE POLL.

*Long Wellesley*, 2009; *Methuen*, 2822; *Benett*, 1572.

Majority over *Mr. Benett*, 437.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

IT was with astonishment that during the progress of the Poll, I found the superiority of the numbers of my opponent continually increasing. I at length found that my success was no longer possible, and by the permission of my generous friends who defended me during the whole election from the violence of my adversaries, I retired from the contest.

At the commencement of the election I had no doubt of eventual success. Confiding in the numerous promises of support which had been given to me, I expected speedily to attain a decisive superiority on the Poll. Its publication will be most gratifying to me, and to my family and friends. I cannot but exult in the support of those freeholders of my native county, who are recorded to have voted in *my* favour.

I am at present defeated because many votes which were

promised to me (and on account of which I entered upon the glorious conflict) controlled by violence, or influenced by other motives, came not to support me at the hustings; or appeared there in favour of my opponent.

Thus defeated, I may still triumph in reflecting that in the district of Wiltshire in which I have passed my life, where my character is well known, and my qualities can be most justly estimated, I have been honoured with almost unanimous support. The result of the Poll has given the representation of the county to my opponent.

Accept, gentlemen, the assurance of my permanent gratitude for that support. It shall be the labour of my life, whether in public or in private station, to deserve and to obtain your regard. Should occasion justify it, I will again come forward to solicit the honour of representing you in Parliament. The highest honour of which I am ambitious, is to be regarded as the Champion of your Independence.

Believe me to remain ever, your devoted servant,

*Pythouse, July* 4, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

## WILTSHIRE ELECTION.

ALL persons having any legal demands upon Mr. LONG WELLESLEY, in respect of his election, are desired to send their accounts immediately to the *Committee Rooom in Crane Street, Salisbury.*

*Salisbury, July* 4, 1818.

To the High Sheriff of the County of Wilts, and his Under Sheriff; To the Magistrates of the County; of New Sarum and Wilton, and the several Officers of Police who were employed under them in endeavouring to maintain the Peace during the Election for the County.

GENTLEMEN,

Feeling that I am indebted to that power of the law which you exercised for the suppression of tumult and commotion, by which the freedom of election was violated and the lives of many of my friends endangered, I request that you will accept of my sincere thanks, and believe that I shall ever retain a grateful recollection of the obligation which you have conferred upon all the freeholders of the county, and particularly upon

Your faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN BENETT.

*Pythouse, July* 14, 1818.

To the Gentlemen of my Committees throughout the County, and to those Friends who attended me to the Hustings every day during the Election.

GENTLEMEN,

I know not how to express my particular obligation towards you collectively and individually, for the honour and the essential service which I have derived from your kindness.

Many of you incurred great personal danger; all of you sustained much labour and inconvenience in my cause. I feel wholly incompetent to shew my gratitude towards you, except by this public declaration of the sincere thanks which I request you to accept from

Your most obliged and faithful servant,

*Pythouse, July 4,* 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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SUCH of the Gentlemen of *Mr. Benett's Committee,* as can make it convenient to attend, are requested to meet at the *White Hart* at *Salisbury,* on *Wednesday,* the 22nd day of July, at Twelve o'Clock, for the purpose of auditing several of the accounts relative to the Election, and on other very important business.

J. P. TINNEY, Secretary to the Committee.

*Salisbury, July 4th,* 1818.

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ALL *Professional Gentlemen, Tradesmen,* and *Others,* who have any demands upon *John Benett, Esq.* in respect of the late Election for Wiltshire, are requested forthwith to transmit them to *Mr. Tinney,* attorney at law, Salisbury, that they may be immediately audited and allowed by Mr. Benett's Committee, and discharged.

*Committee Room, Salisbury, July 4,* 1818.

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## *To the Old Moon-Raker.*

"Good Night, gentle Cousin John."

Now what think you of it? "The most credulous" will now begin to doubt either your discernment or veracity; even you, your very self are becoming sceptical! Are you satisfied now, who the man is that lives in the hearts of the people; who it is that is "gaining ground in the affections of the people?" Is it your Candidate, or the man that you oppose? Look at the Poll, and see how fruitless your attempts have been to gull the people out of their understandings! Listen to the expressions of dislike, which every one your eye sees is making against your dearly beloved; don't you think it is very rude of them not to take your word

before their own judgments? What a pity that the Quorum do not get an act passed to prevent every person from *thinking* but themselves! Then you might stand a chance of seeing once more dear 1772! At present I am high in hope: how are you? Rather down-hearted, I suppose. Enough to make you: your hands have been touched by a torpedo, you are benumbed, and have become motionless! I see nothing of you in the garb of the Moon-Raker; as A. B. however, you still continue to breathe; and in the usual way, falsehood follows your pen, or rather inspires it. Mr. Benett has been beaten every day; yet you tell us that his success is certain! You are overcome in every battle, and you retreat shouting *victory!* What an insult to the feelings of the man whose cause you affect to defend! What a combatant! You affect superiority and contempt, run off with an air of triumph and exultation, and hide your head with all the arrogance of a conqueror!

Surely you have not witnessed the occurrences of the last seven days, or you would not have told us that "the prejudices of the people against Mr. Benett are evidently on the decrease." How do you prove it? Do you attend the hustings? Do you march with the troop to Salisbury? You see no evident marks of prejudice there? I condemn the way in which the people shew their dislike of Mr. Benett, but it is owing to you and the like of you, that ever Mr. Benett has been insulted. The people have no other way of shewing him their abhorrence, of the falsehoods you continue to propagate, than by those means, which I, more than you, shall ever continue to reprobate. Do they shew their respect to Mr. Wellesley by the same "evident marks of decreasing prejudice?" Even you will not assert so much. You have endeavoured to make the world think as favourably of that gentleman, as they appear to do of Mr. Benett, but it won't do, they will not have it. "It is (to use your own words) high time that the disgraceful mode of hostility adopted against that gentleman should cease." So it is; here, for once, we are agreed. Talk of *intimidation!* But you refer, of course, to cavalry in the shape of carters and cowmen, armed with bludgeons, pistols, and other weapons of offence! *Those* are the things that have a *tendency* to intimidate. Do the friends of Mr. Wellesley carry them, or the partisans of Mr. Benett? Settle this point, and you shall have to prate about *intimidation!* What is your opinion? "Misguided people" are of opinion that they belong to the latter.

The kind hint given us not to forget that Mr. Wellesley voted for the Corn Bill, is indeed good of you.—But why do good by *halves?* Why not inform us at the same time that

he did it in consequence of Mr. Benett swearing that the farmers and landholders would be ruined; and as for himself, he would pack up his *awls* and go to France! Heaven forbid! O, dire misfortune for England! Worse than an earthquake! It is to John Benett's *oath* not to Mr. Wellesley's *vote*, that the poor must look. And so Mr. Benett did recommend a little *barley* mixture! He is much attached to mixture! Mixtures for the *back*, mixtures for the *belly!* and all from Pythouse! If the mixture for the belly be as pleasant to the palate, as the mixture for the back is to the touch, it must be a mess for the Gods!

I should not have noticed your letter had there been any thing of more importance in the paper. But there is such a falling off! The combatants of the quill have all deserted their colours; I must therefore direct my attention to you, and shall employ my pen as the Romans (to preserve their dexterity) did their javelins, *discharge them against a post*, and that is you,

MY OLD HEART.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I CONGRATULATE you on the victory you have achieved, and on the moderation you have manifested—on the laurels you have won, and on the way that you have worn them! You have, indeed, done well and wonderfully! The conquest you have effected, is, indeed, a glorious one; whether we consider its motive, its object, or the means by which it has been accomplished. Its motive was love of-country; a desire to see your county independent, like those which surround it—nothing selfish or sinister, not hatred to any one man as such, more than to another; it was on public principles you acted, even when defending the private character of a gentleman from the calumnies with which it had been assailed. Your object, like your motive, was good; it was by a vigorous effort to rescue your country from the thraldom in which it had been kept for nearly half a century by a few individuals, who, though they may be very amiable and respectable in private life, had no right to usurp an authority over you, a power that they now attempted to perpetuate, and which would have deprived you of the rights to which you were born, or which your industry had acquired, and which you sought to transmit to your posterity. For nearly half a century these rights have not been recognised; you have been transferred from one man to another, like sheep or oxen, but with less ceremony; cattle must be collected before they can be disposed of, but you are trans-

ferred without so much trouble—without your knowledge, though against your wills! The age of usurpation is gone—you have rescued the character of your county, and established your own! You have shewn what men can do, when they are resolved to be free; and the way in which you accomplished the independence of your county, shews that you deserve it. The means by which you wrought your deliverance were of a kind that shewed you understood the nature of the blessing for which you were contending; in every way they were legal and honourable, nor varied from the straight line which the constitution has drawn between the exercise of right, and an infringement on privilege. On *your* part there was no "confused noise of the warrior, nor garments rolled in blood," you came in cheerful procession, and departed like men who were satisfied they had discharged their consciences to their country and to posterity. On your part there was no martial array, no bludgeons, no concealed swords, none of you were bound in sureties to keep the peace! You conducted yourselves with order, and you have the praise of it.

The printers of the Salisbury Journal, Messrs. Brodie and Dowding, gentlemen of sterling probity, intelligence, and candour, and whose strong attachment to the cause you have espoused can no longer be doubted, in complimenting the Sheriff and county magistrates for their excellent arrangements, and the city magistrates for their precautions, have paid an equal compliment to you; for the arrangements of the one, and the precautions of the other, would have lost all their excellence, had they been ineffectual. In fact, there was no riot, there was no disturbance throughout the county, but what has been traced to the supporters of the retiring Candidate, on the assertions of some, and the affidavits of others. And I am credibly informed, that Mr. B. on complaining of the clamour and noise that was made on his appearing in the city, was judiciously replied to by the magistrate whom he addressed on the occasion, "that if he heard of any riot, that he would attend in person, and the party to whom it was attributable, should be made examples of; but *clamour* was not *riot*, and if persons were determined to wear conspicuously about them, colours offensive to the eye of the populace, he would not be answerable for the consequences; and he thought the best way to prevent disturbance and riot was to remove them; for, if people saw what they disliked, they would express their abhorrence of it, and he possessed no authority to prevent it." There was no necessity for the worthy magistrate's interference, and, if there had, it must have been solely attributed to those men who were hired, and horsed, and fed, and armed, to intimidate those who were freeholders, and to excite disturbance

amongst those who were not. I appeal to Mr. Smith, of Westbury, and to the gentlemen who were with him, when the leader of the horse, with his followers, attempted to ride him down, and which they would have done but for the railing which the Under-Sheriff had caused to be placed round the hustings. In fact, so peaceably were the inhabitants of Salisbury and Wilton known to be, that the *lie of the day* is, that a man was hired from Portsmouth, at twelve shillings per week, by Mr. Wellesley, to create a tumult, as the people shewed no disposition to be guilty of any outrage.

Now, Gentlemen, I must lead you back a little; for after this admission of the Editors of the Journal in behalf of the peaceable demeanour of the people; after the affidavits read from the hustings, and by which it is clearly proved that the aggressors were *not* persons friendly to Mr. Wellesley; after the disgraceful scenes that you witnessed at the place of Election, you no doubt wonder how any man of common sense and common honesty, in a speech delivered by him at the White Hart on the evening of Mr. Benett's declining the Poll, could assert "that a system of terror had been established throughout the county, by which many freeholders had been intimidated, and dared not to exercise their franchise in his favour." Now, gentlemen, to you that have seen the whole transactions of this contest, does it not appear astonishing that any man can use such language, though in a company even of partisans? It must appear more strange to you that it should have been published, and with an insinuation that Mr. Wellesley had acquired his Election by "*violence*!" After this, gentlemen, I need not ask you to pay no respect to the speaker or his speechment. Messrs. Brodie and Dowding tell you that they do not believe that there was any thing of the kind; and at a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Justices of the City of New Sarum, held in the Council Chamber on the third of July, for the express purpose of thanking the High Constables, and Sub-Constables for their attendance during the election, it is expressly stated in the resolution of thanks that "the preservation of the public peace of the City was completely effected, and the disgraceful scenes of riot, too common on such occasions, were prevented." After reading this, gentlemen, I shall only astonish you once more, and that is by two quotations, from two advertisements purporting to be Mr. Benett's, in which he thanks the High Sheriff of the county, his Under-Sheriff, the Magistrates of the county, of New Sarum and Wilton, the officers of Police, and the horsemen who attended him, "for the suppression of tumult and commotion, by which the freedom of election was

violated, and the lives of many of his friends endangered, and in which many of them incurred great personal danger?" So much for the advertisements of Mr. Benett, if they are his, but that I will not believe, or else he cannot have the *honourable* mind which the speechment maker gives him. They cannot be his. They were written by some "indescribable hireling writer"—"some man of desperate fortune," —who, beaten from the field, took that method of shewing the mildness of his temper, and the philosophy of his mind. On Mr. Benett I cast no reflection; he has been badly advised, and badly supported; and, as far as I ought, I pity his fallen fortunes. He has to thank the Moon-Raker's effusions, and all the rest of his writers, for his overthrow: had they *written* less, and *acted* a little more, he might have been in a situation where, with all the charity of which I am master, I should not like to see him. Every thing that has been said about him, has been called forth by their weekly communications to the press; while a fair chance of reply has not been allowed to his opponents. If our enemies wear swords, we must wear them too; and he that gives the *first* thrust, must justify the *second*—both are attributable to them —in every thing they have been unsuccessful—they courted discomfiture, and they have got it; and all the harm I now wish them is—fortitude and resignation.

Mr. Benett throws out an insinuation, that at some future period he may again appear as a candidate for the county: and the report of to-day is that some other gentleman intends offering himself on the next vacancy. This is no more than what you had a right to expect. It is no more than a beaten school-boy's trick,—"I won't fight any more now, but I'll have it out with you to-morrow; and if I don't, brother Dick shall." This is all the triumph we allow a runaway—it is the swan-song of defeat. You will see no new starters; the Quorum and the Clubs have had their belly-full. If so eager for another, why did they not stay and see the present one out. Let me advise them to make the most of their time, and diligently improve the opportunity you have given them of acquiring some of those excellent qualifications which Mr. Benett possesses for the improvement of your county. Let the Representatives you have chosen be the objects of your entire confidence: they have made a trial of your affections, and there is no man that beheld them —that heard them—can doubt of their making you a corresponding return. Should they act otherwise, gentlemen, you shall not fail to see it noticed. And now I have only to thank you for the patience and attention with which you have read my letters to you—for the joy you have expressed

at their effects—for the personal attentions I have received from many of you, especially from those whom I had been accustomed to treat as adversaries, but which name we have exchanged for that of friend, and the endearments of friendship.

Gentlemen, for the present, I most respectfully bid you farewell, and shall ever continue to prove myself your faithful friend,

*Saturday, 4th July*, 1818. TITUS TRUEMAN.

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## *Mr. Benett to the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

The heat of contention having in some degree subsided, I trust the remarks I consider it my duty to submit to you, on the subject of the late Election, will be attentively examined, even by those who have hitherto been opposed to me.

I decline replying to the scandalous productions of hireling writers, which were industriously and widely circulated; I trusted that my character was well known to you, and that it would be justly appreciated. I am now, however, induced to notice the address of Mr. Wellesley, dated the 3rd of July, in which he says, "you have refused to wear the chains with which it was attempted to shackle you, and have for ever secured your independence."

Gentlemen, I would ask who offered you chains? and where is now your independence? Does Mr. Wellesley arrogate to himself, and to his supporters, all the independence of Wiltshire?

That word independence, which has been prostituted for the purposes of the contest, may still be re-echoed by Mr. Wellesley; it has already served his end by deceiving the multitude, and securing his election for Wiltshire, and it has left the borough of St. Ives for another independent man.

The representation of the county of Wilts is intended to be in future the appendage of one family, and its independence has become a bye-word amongst all people. By whom has this been effected? Not by me or my supporters. I offered myself as a Candidate for your representation, with the legitimate pretensions of being a private gentleman, of a family as ancient, as honourable, and independent as any in this county; having resided my whole life amongst you, and endeavoured to perform all the duties attached to my station.

I had no Treasury influence, no high alliances, no immoderate fortune to boast of. The whole of my interest in the county of Wilts proceeded from the affections of those who have long known me as their friend, whose attachment cannot

be bought; it is in my estimation above all price; and I trust that my conduct will always be such as to ensure me a continuance of it. Of 2300 promises of support which I had received in my canvass, 1572 independent men enrolled their names for me at the poll, and 300 more were anxious to give me their suffrages. These are not the men that would forge "chains" for their fellow freeholders; they are not those who would sacrifice their independence for any sordid motive. In the annals of county elections, our Wiltshire election is without example.

The scandalous falsehoods which were circulated under anonymous signatures, by hand-bills and other papers, the opening of houses of public resort, and the inflammatory speeches which were daily and hourly addressed to the populace in the streets and ale-houses of the manufacturing and other large towns, exceed in infamy any thing which has been known in the most corrupt borough elections. These proceedings occasioned the numerous assaults which were committed on my friends and myself, and established that system of intimidation which prevented a number of my voters (though in many instances not till after they had been beaten and the carriages in which they would have been conveyed broken to pieces), from coming to the poll in my favour. Others, by the same circumstances, were induced to vote against me: thus has the freedom of election been grossly violated, and the unbiassed suffrages of the freeholders have not been obtained against me.

I would not notice the opposition of the populace, had it proceeded from any feeling founded on truth or reason; but as I canvassed those places which have now shewn the greatest irritation against me a very short time since, with great success, and without sustaining any insult, that feeling can only have been excited by the system adopted for the purposes of the election, and founded on the grossest misrepresentation and injustice.

But when I have seen the magistracy of the county insulted, and every attempt made to degrade that most respectable body in the estimation of the people—when I have seen the country gentlemen and the yeomanry vilified, and the most artful means used to disunite that chain of society on which depend the happiness and prosperity of the British nation, I cannot be surprised at the base attacks made on an individual like myself. In truth, more has been done during this election to demoralize the rising generation of this county, than those who reside in the county, and interest themselves in the moral and orderly conduct of the people, will for many years be able to counteract.

After the numerous instances of personal attachment I have

experienced amongst all classes of independent men, I have little to lament on my own account; but in common with all Wiltshire men who think and act for themselves, I must lament that the representation of our county has become like a borough interest; that it has been obtained by means which are without precedent, and which I would never adopt for any purpose whatever; and that it is wrested from the free, independent, unbiassed and uncorrupted freeholders, to be attached as an honour to a single family. The stigma will not, I trust, remain long upon us; the friends of Freedom and Independence will seize the earliest opportunity to rescue our degraded representation from the grasp of those who now regard it as their property. I shall be at my post ready to unite with them in promoting so glorious a cause.

I have the honour to remain, brother freeholders,

Your very faithful, obliged, and devoted servant,

*Pyt House, July* 10, 1818. JOHN BENETT.

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## *To the Freeholders of the County of Wilts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I SHOULD very much have wished not again to have troubled you with a public address. When I last appeared before you, it was my sincere desire that all the irritation arising out of the contest, should be allayed, that all its animosity should cease to exist.

I was willing to spare to my adversary the mortification of being told of his defeat, and had resolved that from me should escape no expression of exultation.

I intended strictly to adhere to this resolution, but the extraordinary manifesto of the 10th July, published under the name of Mr. Benett (solely calculated to keep up contention), obliges me to come forward once more, but it shall be for once only. Having terminated the contest at the hustings, I will not be dragged into a paper war by that Gentleman, or his partisans.

Gentlemen, "I do not arrogate to myself and my supporters all the independence of Wiltshire," but I maintain, that by your honourable exertions I have been the instrument of rescuing the county from the dictation of a few: and I repeat that by "refusing to wear the chains with which it was attempted by those few to shackle you," you have for ever secured your independence.

It is as absurd, as it is false, to talk of your representation as the appendage of any one family; the spirit manifested by all classes, in all parts of the county, throughout the last contest, affords the most decisive proof to the contrary, and is a suffi-

cient guarantee in future for your freedom of choice. There is in the freeholders of Wiltshire a high minded independence, which will not submit itself to any undue influence, which will not brook any improper control. The Candidate who offers himself to them must have principles, and a public and private character, which will bear the test of inquiry. Upon those grounds I stood; upon them I have been elected.

In personal independence I will yield to no man. Mr. Benett must and does know, I disdain Treasury influence, and used none; that I courted no high alliances; that I made no boast of immoderate fortune. Our mutual pretensions for the honour of representing the county were brought before the freeholders, and a preponderating majority of the "free, the independent, the unbiassed and uncorrupt freeholders" were pleased to consider my claims as better founded than his. *They* were the persons most capable of judging between us; *they* were the persons to whom Mr. Benett so confidently insisted upon making his appeal; their selection is too flattering not to be highly grateful to me, and it would well become *him* to submit with resignation to their decision. To all those parts of Mr. Benett's letter which may be construed as relating personally to myself, I shall not condescend to give any other answer, than a positive denial of all the charges levelled at me; nor shall I insult *you*, gentlemen, the freeholders of the county, by any defence of your conduct. The accusations against you carry with them their own refutation;—the language in which they are couched, breathes throughout a spirit of intemperance and disappointment. The writer in his cooler moments, will not be able to reflect upon them, without regretting the use of expressions towards persons whom he was desirous of calling his constituents, which manifest the possession of the highest disqualification that can belong to a public servant, that of allowing personal feeling to affect his public conduct.

If Mr. Benett accuses me or my friends of "infamy" in the conduct of the election, the allegation shall be repelled by me, with the contempt and indignation it deserves.

I deny that the freedom of election was grossly violated by me or my friends; that threats or intimidation were used to procure me a single vote; that I sanctioned the propagation of scandalous falsehoods;—I deny that the magistracy of the county were treated with disrespect, or any attempt made to degrade them, or that the country gentlemen or yeomanry of the county were vilified. To treat with disrespect the magistracy or country gentlemen, would be to cast a reproach upon my own station in life; to vilify the yeomanry, would be to offer an insult to a body or men, with whom I

am more closely and largely connected, than most other persons; but gentlemen, I did and still do reprobate the conduct of those few, who assumed the appellation, without having the character of the yeomanry of your county, and who daily attended at the hustings in the suite of my opponent.

The men of Wiltshire, like other men possessing common understanding, have had an opportunity of witnessing the conduct of the several Candidates; they will judge which of those Candidates or their friends excited commotion. The magistracy of Devizes, the magistracy of Salisbury, the respectable inhabitants of Bradford, of Trowbridge and Westbury, will do me the justice to acknowledge, that my most anxious solicitude was engaged in preserving the public tranquillity. To those persons who frequently honoured me by their attendance to and from the hustings, I invariably said, that "by any tumult they would disgrace me, and dishonour themselves; and that I considered popular opinion as alone valuable, when constitutionally and moderately expressed."

I call the particular attention of the county to the state of the Poll when published.

I refer to it as a mark to myself of honourable distinction; for it evinces, that I am not indebted to any one interest or family, for the high station which I now occupy; my success is grounded upon the spontaneous support of the two great interests, upon which rest, when united, the prosperity of this kingdom,—the agricultural and the manufacturing.

Had the conduct of my friends or myself been such as could tend to demoralize the rising generation of your county, I should not have had to reflect with exultation upon the support given to me, by the highest and most respectable dignitaries of the Established Church, by the most moral heads of other religious persuasions, by the established magistracy of the county, whose names as magistrates stand recorded in the annals of 1772, and as freeholders at that period carried that great cause in the person of Mr. Goddard; and whose descendants in 1818, did not think my public character undeserving support, upon the principles of Independence.

I have now the honour of assuring those gentlemen whom I presume to call my constituents, that they shall find me at all times ready at my post, humbly, but firmly, to urge my pretensions as Candidate for the representation of their great county.—Willing to court inquiry into my public and private life, and never assenting to relinquish the honour now conferred upon me, until I sacrifice their good opinion, by adopting a course of conduct in direct opposition to the

principles which have regulated it from my first entrance into public life.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
Your devoted faithful servant,
W. LONG WELLESLEY.

*Wanstead House, July* 15, 1818.

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## *To the Editor of the Salisbury Gazette.*

SIR,

MR. BENETT, in his letter of the 10th instant, inserted in your last Gazette, and addressed to the Freeholders of the county of Wilts, says, " I trust the remarks which I consider it my duty to submit to you on the subject of the late election will be attentively examined, even by those who have hitherto been opposed to me."

I mean to accept this invitation; in part for the purpose of endeavouring to refute an assertion and repel an insinuation of Mr. Benett's, which may, unnoticed, appear to the freeholders as incontrovertible. Mr. Benett remarks that

" The representation of the county of Wilts is intended to be in future the appendage of *one Family*, and its independence is become a bye-word amongst all people."

It is to this paragraph and the meaning it is intended to convey, that I object, as equally unfair and untrue. Mr. Benett also adds that the county is become a rotten borough. What, by the means of one family—does this gentleman imagine that so gross a calumny can pass uncontradicted either by the family or the 2009 voters who supported Mr. Wellesley? The latter will not thank him for the compliment, nor probably forget it whenever another opportunity offers them of again giving their unbiassed suffrages to *any Candidate* who may present himself.

The Family wholly disclaim the honour of *attempting*, and much more the *power*, of returning one of the representatives for Wiltshire: but they would most undoubtedly be worse than fools if they did not accept the proffered assistance of their neighbours in the support of a Candidate of whom they approved. I know where the sore place is: but look at the manufacturing interest, and let any man of judgment determine, whether it is probable or possible that any family can induce so large, so respectable, and so opulent a body of freeholders to resign their votes, or permit themselves to be biassed against their better judgment.

The fact is, that the family alluded to lives, and has lived for some hundreds of years, in the neighbourhood of several large manufacturing towns, and it has been their happiness so to live in peace, harmony, and good will with their several inha-

bitants. What mystery then is there in friends and neighbours joining together in promoting any object of which they mutually approve?—Surely Mr. Benett would not expect the Family to tell their neighbours—you must not vote with us. The answer would be—we will vote as we please, and we will not be dictated to.

I will strengthen this argument by appealing to Mr. Benett's preceding letter, dated the 4th of July, which contains the following sentence:

"Thus defeated I may still triumph in reflecting that in that district in Wiltshire in which I have passed my life, where my character is well known, and my qualities can be most justly estimated, I have been honored with almost unanimous support."

What is this but friendly attachment and good neighbourhood?—and can Mr. Benett justly attack a family because it is placed precisely in the same situation as himself, with this difference only, that greater numbers exist in one district than the other? Inspect the Poll Book, and it will appear that Mr. Wellesley has been supported in every quarter of the county, and therefore family influence, though it may help, can secure to no man, however great his pretensions, a certain return of the representation of this great county.

I hope that I have removed the impression which Mr. Benett's letter is meant to convey, and that this Gentleman's "rotten borough" is well timbered, and will remain for ages unimpaired, free, uncorrupted, and honourably represented.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

*July* 15, 1818. ONE OF THE FAMILY.

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At a meeting of the Committee for securing the independence of the county and conducting the interest of JOHN BENETT, Esq. as a Candidate for the representation of the County of Wilts in the Parliament to be holden on the 4th of August next, held pursuant to public advertisement at the White Hart Inn at Salisbury, on the 22nd day of July, 1818,

WILLIAM WYNDHAM, Esq. in the chair:

The following Resolutions were unanimously adopted by that meeting;—

1st.—That the result of the late Election is regarded with the deepest regret by this meeting.—2nd. That from many circumstances which occurred previous to the Election and during its continuance, we are of opinion that the final result of the poll was not the expression of the free and unbiassed sentiments of the freeholders at large; that a system of intimidation was established in many districts, and other means inconsistent with the freedom and purity of election were pursued, by which many independent freeholders were restrained

from presenting themselves at the poll, or were otherwise prevented from giving their votes, according to their unbiassed judgment in favour of Mr. Benett.—3rd. That by such system, and in the pursuance of such means, the independence of the county has been violated.—4th. That we will use our utmost endeavours, whenever a fit opportunity shall occur, to re-establish that independence.—5th. That we earnestly expect our brother freeholders to concur with us in whatever measures shall be conducive to an end so honourable to the county, and so important to our dearest interests.—6th. That the thanks of this meeting be given to John Benett, Esq. for his firm and temperate conduct during the late arduous contest, for his strenuous though unsuccessful efforts to maintain the independence of the county and purity of election, and for the pledge which he has given to persevere in maintaining the common cause.—7th. That it is earnestly recommended to the freeholders at large to cherish those principles of independence upon which the honour of the county must ever essentially depend.—8th. That this committee be permanent, under the name of "A Committee for securing the Independence of the County."—9th. That this meeting do adjourn to the Wednesday in the week of the Summer Assizes, 1819, at the White Hart Inn at Salisbury, to consider what may then be necessary to further the common object: that in the mean time any five members of the committee, of whom the chairman to be one, be requested to convene a meeting of this committee, for the furtherance of its great object, whenever occasion may require; and that every friend and well-wisher to the independence of the county be admitted a member of the committee.—10th. That the members of the committee be requested to adopt from time to time, such measures in their several districts of the county, by establishing local meetings and otherwise, as they shall deem most conducive to the object of this meeting.—11th. That the proceedings of the local meetings of the committee be from time to time transmitted to Mr. Tinney, the secretary of this committee, to be reported to the general meetings.—12th. That these Resolutions be published in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal, the Courier, the Times, Cruttwell's Bath Paper, and the Reading Mercury, and be otherwise circulated through the county; that they be engrossed on parchment and signed by the chairman, and that copies on parchment be prepared for the several districts of the county to be signed by such as approve them.—*Lastly*, That the thanks of this meeting be given to those gentlemen in several districts of the county who have borne, or expressed an intention of bearing, a portion of the expenses of the Election, by bringing the voters in Mr. Benett's interest to the hustings, without charge to that gentleman or otherwise.

(Signed) WILLIAM WYNDHAM.

# SONGS.

## MRS. WILTSHIRE'S WEDDING.

Tune—"*From the County of Cork.*"

MOTHER Wiltshire, good woman, some few years ago
Advertis'd for *two* husbands, for one wouldn't do!
They met her at Wilton, and had some chit chat,
When the *banns*, Johnny Benett read out of his hat.
Tol de rol, &c.

As no one forbad, they were married of course,
And took one another, for better for worse;
The old lady pleas'd, and expecting a treat,
Took both of the gentlemen up to her seat.
Tol de rol, &c.

*One*, thoughtful and steady, ne'er troubled her much,
Never look'd at what husbands may lawfully touch;
The other, a thoughtless, and wanton young blade,
Turn'd his back on his wife, and fell foul of the maid.
Tol de rol, &c.

Separation was talk'd of, the deed was prepar'd,
The old one gave up, but the young one declar'd,
Though lately he'd acted too much at his ease,
He would try her again, and endeavour to please.
Tol de rol, &c.

A lover came forward, who promis'd his friends,
That he'd marry the lady, to serve his own ends;
He proffer'd his love, and she laid him a bet,
That he courted her hand, just to pay off his debt.
Tol de rol, &c.

He talk'd of his honour, his wealth, and his blood,
And then of the Corn Bill, that did so much good;
Though he never could hammer it into her head,
That by *raising* the corn, he should lower the bread.
Tol de rol, &c.

The Sages of law and divinity met,
And the honest old lady threw into a pet,
So flaming their zeal, they got into a scrape,
And committed, what's known by the name of a rape.
Tol de rol, &c.

They told him about Johnny's sheep and his tythes,
His kindness to Fisher, his letter on tythes,
His learning and knowledge, and then of his parts,
Of his newly made ploughs, of his second-hand carts.
Tol de rol, &c.

She refus'd him, when shortly another appear'd,
To herself and her relatives justly endeared,
She pronounc'd him at once the man that would suit,
He was young, he was wealthy, and gallant to boot.
Tol de rol, &c.

The Sages by party and prejudice led,
Resolv'd he should never the old lady wed,
Fill'd her ears with their tales, but it was of no use,
Her affection increas'd, with increasing abuse.
Tol de rol, &c.

Then let us approve of the old lady's choice,
And Wiltshire and Wellesley be ever the voice,
With true English feeling their slanders contemn,
Forgetting the fact, and forgiving the men,
Tol de rol, &c.

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## THE WORLD OF WONDERS.

We live in an age made of wonders,
There's new ones in Wilts every day,
Though there's some of them prove to be blunders,
As blundering people will say;
'Tis strange, but we've Fish that can walk!
And what is more strange, that can write too!
What's equally strange, that can talk!
Have attempted, but cannot indite true.
Ri fol de rol.

Who "intrude" and "obtrude" when they please,
Come in and go out when they like, Sirs,
Mixing with all sorts of fry at their ease,
And take for companions a Pike, Sirs!
Who, where Avon enlivens the dale,
Lately fastened his teeth on a *Fisher*,
(And made the poor man moan and wail,)
To *himself* a most famous well-wisher.
Ri fol de rol.

Not content with enjoying the stream,
Which his ancestry reckon'd a treasure,
He lays claim to the waters of Wilts,
To devour all the fish at his pleasure;
But the Fisher provided a spear
With two prongs, in the shape of *two letters*,
Gave a thrust as the tyrant drew near,
And paid off his tricks to his betters.
Ri fol de rol.

In the water a Perch had appear'd,
While there wasn't a Pike but pursu'd him,
Attempted to swallow, but fear'd
The thorns on his back as they view'd him:
He fac'd them,—they wheel'd round about,
He follow'd, as quick they retreated,
*Notoriously* put to the rout,
And the *whole* most completely defeated.
Ri fol de rol.

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## THE NEW WILTSHIRE SONG OF 1818.

*Set to an old Tune**.

There is a certain "native," that travels through the shire,
He says his name is Benett—a name *some do* know here,
And know it to their cost,—for sure as I'm a man,
That Benett we must not elect—*Independence* is our plan.
That Benett we must, &c.

* The Reader is referred to an incomparably liberal and clever Song, published and distributed in behalf of Mr. Benett. As a proof of my admiration of some of its sentiments, I have pretty extensively borrowed its materials.

From Pyt-House, 'tis reported, this "gentleman" is bound,
To seek more friends elsewhere—than near at home are found,
But yet he'll not our Member be; he shall not us trepan,
For we will Poll for *Wellesley*—his cause is "Freedom's plan."
For we will, &c.

Some say he's independent, it may or may not be,
The man some Clubbists think so,—is never so with me,
Resist him then, my neighbours—for there's enough that can
Uprear their crest for *Wellesley*,—Independence is our plan.
Uprear, &c.

As Wiltshiremen, as Englishmen, as Freeholders, our voice
Shall be for him who seeks no help from Coalition's choice,
And e'en a "Stranger," prudence owns, may be a better man,
Than many a *native wonder*—brag how and much he can.
Than many, &c.

Though prejudiced supporters, and vile dependents swear,
By help of means both foul and fair "long Benett" shall reign here,
The little wealth their Idol has, shall ne'er our hearts trepan,
We will have none but *Wellesley*—Independence is our plan.
We will, &c.

Sometimes of family John talks—but better would it be
To hold his tongue about the thing—but that's 'twixt you and me,
But this you know that some of us have long'd to see the plan,
That mark'd this Hero out at once an *independent* man.
That mark'd, &c.

What if from Kings or titled blood *Long Well'sley* dates his race,
'Gainst Kings and titles noble, can Wiltshire set her face;
Why *Wellesley* sprung from England—there's *Wellington*, great man!
Did England hate his race because in Ireland it began?
Did, &c.

Then let this clever Benett his "local" talents trim,
And talk of Independence—I think 'tis new to him,
But never let him, Wiltshiremen! by usurpation's plan,
Claim all our freedom for himself, for *Wellesley* is our Man.
Claim all, &c.

I take a bumper—so will you—to *Wellesley* good success,
"I would not give a halfpenny for him that would do less;"
We know his love of Freedom, his sentiments we scan,
And find that they are current here—Oh—*Well'sley* is our Man.
And find, &c.

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Tune—"*Fidelity once took a fancy to roam.*"

As soon as I heard the folks talk of Election,
For Long Wellesley I felt a strong predilection;
To Wellington's nephew let us all now be true,
And with Benett's HARD Corn-Bill have nothing to do.

Such Election as this was there never before,
The people divided, the rich and the poor,
The Quorum for Benett are in such a taking,
The Old Swindon *fool* set them all a *moon-raking*.

But now a new whim we've got into our head,
We don't rake for cheese, we are raking for bread;
Now to speak disrespectful, my friends, I am loth,
But, if Benett succeeds, he 'll deprive us of both.

Ye voters of Wiltshire, to Wellesley advance,
As his uncle has crush'd the usurper of France;
May he in his turn now fulfil all our wishes,
That our tables may groan with white bread and good dishes.

The high honours that now in his family reign,
May he in the *House* for ever maintain;
To Wellesley and Wellington let us be true,
And with Benett's HARD Corn-Bill have nothing to do.

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## TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF WILTS;

### A SONG.

Tune—"*Sawney and Teague.*"

The gallant young Paddy from Essex came post,
And all for the love of Old Wiltshire he swore,
For he heard the Old Lass her *Protector* had lost,
Who her cares and her burthens so fatherly bore:
And he deem'd the Moon-Rakers a sad silly crew,
Who knew not, poor simples! their leader to choose;
So he kindly stepp'd forward, no object in view,
But to tell them his love, and support the true blues.

Then he spoke of his merits, his riches, his name,
(But this the poor Wiltshiremen n'er could repeat),
And he told of a Hero, whose deeds known to fame,
Each Briton for ever with transport shall greet:
But, poor simple souls! when they heard all his pother,
They turn'd it and twisted it all in their brain;
Then they star'd at the man, and they jogg'd one another,
And said, Let him tell it us all o'er again.

Now he talk'd of his birth (from Plantagenet sprung),
And descanted so long on his lineage so high,
That they marvell'd—till told, by his eloquent tongue,
He was nought but a mortal, nor fell from the sky:
Then he spoke of his tenants in Essex, so dear,
And said the poor creatures would publish their love;
But he modestly crav'd they would not interfere,
Leaving those in *far* counties his merits to prove.

Now he said (though in Wiltshire he never had dwelt,
And scarce knew a creature the County within)
Such love for Moon-Rakers he *always* had felt,
That to stray from such worthies were almost a sin:
And his son, who, poor fellow! the bliss was denied
To inhale at his birth the pure breeze of the downs,
O'er the wild plains and forests should ramble and ride,
And learn all the slang of the Moon-Raking clowns.

Thus Paddy palaver'd and bow'd to the ground,
To gull poor Old Wiltshire—but all would not do;
The sturdy freeholders those merits ne'er found
That he so conspicuously plac'd in their view.
They said, they a Member would choose and uphold,
Who was born in their County, and 'midst them had dwelt;
Whose honours and merits they need not be told,
And whose love of their country their bosoms had felt.

Nor the wealth of rich Paddy their free hearts should bully,
United, they'd raise for their favourite their voice;
No purse-proud grandee, nor no stranger should sully
The freedom of Wiltshire, or fetter their choice.

Then hey for Old Wiltshire, and Moon-Rakers all,
Independence and freedom their glory and pride;
No stranger shall gull them, no wealth shall enthral,
For nought but true merit their choice shall decide.

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## SONG.

Here's a health to Long Wellesley! and long may he prove
A fav'rite M. P. for the County we love;
With opulence grac'd, and with principles true,
He vows *independence* of all—but of *you*.

Here's a health to Long Wellesley! whose fostering care
The *plough* and the *loom* will both equally share;
A *warm* friend to our staple, *the fam'd golden fleece*,
And with *taste* to protect—*our good butter and cheese*.

Here's a health to Long Wellesley! in whose name is combin'd
*One*, dear to all Wilts—and *one*, dear to mankind:
Then haste, with your votes and your int'rest, to crown
The man who's a-kin—to the *Great Wellington*.

Here's success to Long Wellesley! success to his cause!
Let him have your support, as he seeks your applause;
With spirit we 'll canvas—his name we 'll enrol,
And place with one voice—*at the head of the Poll*.
*5th June*, 1818.

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## WHO PREFERS PYT-HOUSE MIXTURE TO WELLINGTON BLUE?

### A NEW SONG.

To the Tune of—"*Nobody*."

When *Long Wellesley* first started, I look'd at "the man*,"
And I said, I'll do for him whatever I can,
And as to *Paul Methuen*, he'll surely succeed;
But as to the other—he will not indeed!—
No John Benett, no, no Benett, no Benett,
No Benett, no Benett, no!

*Long Wellesley*, anonymous writers abuse,
And to him each cardinal virtue refuse;
But for scandal and cunning he cares not a rush,
And we know who'll be fortunate at the last push:
Not John Benett, no, not Benett,
No Benett, no Benett, no Benett, no!

Of the *Wiltshire Electors* this question I'd ask,
(And to answer it cannot be much of a task,)
Pray tell me, ye *Voters*, and tell me all true,
"Who prefers *Pythouse Mixture* to *Wellington Blue?*"
O nobody! no, nobody! nobody,
Nobody, nobody, no!

* Vide Timothy Trueman's scandalous Letter, and Mr. Long Wellesley's incomparable Answer.

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## NEW SONG.

Tune—"*Liberty Hall*."

Ye *Wiltshire Electors*, give ear to my song,
Be attentive, I pray, and I 'll not keep you long;
Though short, I'll my sentiments freely now give,
And sing,—Success to *Benett*, as long as I live.

*Long Wellesley* still for the Moon is raking,
But then the long Poll is the thing he 'll mistake in;
Of *Wellesley's* line, boys, in vain let him boast,
And the Hero of *Pyt-House* in bumpers we 'll toast.

Now *Long Wellesley* loud for plumpers doth call,
And think in his net he 'll catch great and small;
But to us it don't matter what comes from his lips,
Since at *Draycot*, we know, the Moon 's still in eclipse.

He says he was born far below the blue skies,
Yet in *Wiltshire* to honour he gladly would rise;
So now let *Long Wellesley* do all he can,
*John Benett*, of *Pyt-House*, is surely the Man.

For *Benett*, my boys, now let's push round the can,
Refuse it we can't when we once know the Man;
With one heart let's unite—with one voice let's sing
Success to *John Benett*, and God save the King!

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## LONG WELLESLEY PREFERRED;

### A NEW SONG.

To the Tune of—"*The first Time at the Looking-Glass.*"

A certain Man on HORSEBACK came,
Who took an active part, Sir;
To shew that Well'sley's gallant name
Should not engage each heart, Sir;
He canvass'd all, both great and small,
And thunder'd at each door, Sir,
He rummag'd every shop and stall—
*Long Wellesley was before, Sir.*

SAM MARROWBONES had shut up shop,
And just had gone to rest, Sir,
When in this fellow needs must pop,
ILL-LOOKING at the best, Sir:
Said Sam, says he, "Pray who be'st thee,
"That for votes do'st come to bore me?
"Thou 'lt never feel for the public weal,
"*And Well'sley was here before thee.*"

A FISHMONGER he next address'd
With many a soothing tale, Sir,
And for his vote most warmly press'd;
But all would not prevail, Sir.
The Fishman he, did say, says he,
"You've SALMON in which you glory;
"You've a FISHER-man too—but that's nothing new,
"*Long Well'sley was here before ye.*"

A Chimney-sweep he then beset,
(By means of a GREAT CLERK, Sir);
But nought of him could BLACK COAT get
But frowns and looks most dark, Sir:
Of MASTER SOOT he made pursuit,
And chas'd him to each door, Sir,
Kept SWEEP in view—but 't would not do;
*Long Well'sley was with him before, Sirs.*

O! let not pride or wealth prevail
Against the native's claim;
Let Wiltshire's Sons their Brother hail,
And greet with loud acclaim.

Your rights, your liberties are dear
To one who dwells with you;
The Stranger still will promise fair,
But he 'll beguile you too.

Not Wellesley from afar shall boast
That Wiltshire is his own,
Though distant hirelings cheer the toast,
And adulate his throne.

But *Benett's* name, our native Friend,
The Friend of Freedom's cause,
Prevailing still, the skies shall rend
Beneath no Tyrant's laws.

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## SONS OF WILTSHIRE!

A NEW SONG.

Tune—"*Come now, all ye Social Powers.*"

*Sons of Wiltshire*, who would shine
Bright in future story,
Hasten—join the WELLESLEY line;
Restore your County's glory.

CHORUS.

Come, each *independent* soul!
Now assert your freedom:
Poll for WELLESLEY—Plumpers poll,—
The *Quorum*:—never heed 'em:
*Da Capo.*

What care we, though Clubs should hope,
To wield our votes at pleasure;
In WELLESLEY's cause we 'll break the yoke
For *Liberty*—our *treasure.*

*Chorus.*—Come, &c.

Then here's to WELLESLEY! charge all round,
Nor flinch till it be done, Sirs;—
"May there in *Wilts* be ever found
The BLOOD OF WELLINGTON, Sirs!"

*Chorus.*—Come, &c.

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## A NEW SONG.

To the Tune of—"*Paddy from Cork.*"

JOHN BENETT FOR EVER!
LONG WELLESLEY—O NEVER!

For you, of JOHN BENETT, each staunch and true Friend,
This Song is compos'd, and I know you 'll attend:
May JOHN BENETT succeed, "but *the Irishman* never;"
Success to JOHN BENETT—*Independence for ever!*

We admire the spirit of "*the Men of the Quorum*,"
And that true Wiltshire "*Salmon*" that rose up before 'em!
A true *honest man* is the pride of a nation—
Thus *Timothy Trueman* would grace any station.

May the ancient "*Moon-Raker*" live long in our sight,
He 's a zealous true Friend of Independence and right;
Let him proceed in his writing—although seventy-two,
He 'll instruct both the young and the ignorant too.

And now, my good fellows, give BENETT a *bumper*
To this toast—"May JOHN BENETT get many a *Plumper!*"
May BENETT succeed, but "*the Irishman never*,"—
Success to JOHN BENETT!—noble BENETT for ever!

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## LONG WELLESLEY FOR EVER.

A NEW SONG;

*As sung by Mr.* FOSTER, *at the Castle Inn, Marlborough, May 8th, with a double Encore.*

For you, of LONG WELLESLEY, each staunch and firm friend,
This Song is compos'd, and I KNOW you 'll attend;
May LONG WELLESLEY succeed!—but *long* BENETT, oh never!
SUCCESS to LONG WELLESLEY! LONG WELLESLEY FOR EVER!!!
Fol de riddle lol, &c.

We despise the attack of "the MEN of the *Quorum*;"
And that sullen great FISH that rose at him before 'em;
As well as that Scoundrel, insulting fair Woman,
To whose manifold *lies* is sign'd "*Timothy Trueman*."
Fol de riddle lol, &c.

For the *ancient* MOON-RAKER we care not a fig;
He 's an arrant Hum-drum, and conceited old Prig:
Let him scribble his nonsense of *seventy-two*,
And tell his dull tales—which we 'll never read through.
Fol de riddle lol, &c.

And now, my good Fellows, give WELLESLEY a Bumper
To this Toast—"MAY LONG WELLESLEY GET MANY A PLUMPER!
"MAY LONG WELLESLEY SUCCEED!—but *long* BENETT,
"oh never!
"SUCCESS to LONG WELLESLEY!! LONG WELLESLEY
"FOR EVER!!!"
Fol de riddle lol, &c.

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## A CARICATURE.

A-canvassing round the County, we see
A long, lanthorn-jaw'd, wretched creature,
A-straddle across a poor beast—(who but he?)
Of a gentleman—blest with no feature.

His coat it is blue, and was formerly new;
His hat is the gift of his scout, Sir:
His breeches are brown, and well known to each town,
Which this ill Weed has canvass'd about, Sir.

He 's tall and he 's thin, and his legs are a-twin;
His visage, the picture of Grief, Sir:
He seems like a thing that 's committed a sin,
And less like a Gent. than a ———, Sir!

O! what shall we say?—when the time comes we may,
And this Candidate view, one and all, Sir:
Why, we'll then, with one voice, make *Well'sley* our choice,
*William Tylney Long Wellesley*,—and *Paul*, Sir.

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## AN ELECTION'S A FAIR.

Freeholders of Chipp'nham attend,
For a little; I'll tell ye a story,
Then roam through the fair without end,
But first let me lay it before ye;
An Election is just like a fair,
Where something of ev'ry thing's seen, Sirs,
Where some go to hear and to stare,
While the buyers are busy between, Sirs.
Tol de rol.

For the County there's plenty of choice;
It's a time you should all look about ye;
They are one and all seeking your voice,
And declaring they won't go without ye;
There's Paul, who can turn and go on,
Go backward, and then he can shift it!
And John, who laid hands on the Corn,
And so heavy no poor man can lift it!
Tol de rol.

His Farmers he turns into Sharks;
He fleeces, then shews to the door, Sirs,
Then swears he'll grant leases to larks,
Unless that they'll pay him twice o'er, Sirs.
Then make Well'sley the man of your choice;
Come here's to his health in a bumper,
Be Wellesley for ever the voice,
Come each give a vote and a plumper!
Tol de rol.

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## UP WITH WELLESLEY AND DOWN WITH BENETT.

*A New Derry Down.*

A tall Man there is and he lives at Pyt-House,
Who longs for a Seat in the Parliament House:—
But, before we all meet at our great county town,
He's a few little foibles, which I will write down,
*Derry down, down, down Benett down.*

And first there's his fam'd Agricult'ral pursuit,
—The good of a tree is known by its fruit:—
But what good is Mutton? which surely you'll own
Is too dear to buy, and too fat to get down.
*Derry down, &c.*

That's harmless: but then he's a RARE friend to trade,
Will sell you a PLOUGH, or a COAT, or a SPADE*,
Fix the price of a building, within half-a-crown†;—
And all this he does, just to keep the trade down;
*Derry down, &c.*

To the Poor too he's gen'rous, and makes out a table,
To see on HOW LITTLE to live they are able—
Says that WHITE BREAD'S TOO GOOD, and THEY OUGHT to eat BROWN,
Thus you see my good friends how he'll tread the POOR down,
*Derry down, &c.*

But Look at Long Wellesley!!—aye, he is the man,
He's lib'ral and noble—deny it who can—!!
Despises a Pension, and fears no Man's frown:—
*Then UP with LONG WELLESLEY, and DOWN BENETT DOWN,*
*Derry down, down, down Benett down.*

* The Gentleman boasts a Warehouse for Vending these Articles.

† And keeps a Builder's Price Book, for the advancement of the profits of Architecture.

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## LONG WELLESLEY AND FREEDOM.

Tune—"*The tight little Island.*"

Said the *Quorum* hubbub, one day at their Club,
Soon Parliament will be dissolved;
And what unlick'd cub, we think fit to dub,
As Member, must soon be resolved?
For the Voters, we know how to lead'em?
To humbug, we've only to feed'em;
They'll guzzle the ale,
Till they turn sick and pale;
And, hiccupping, fancy *this* FREEDOM.

They canvass'd all o'er, of their Members a score,
To see who their purpose would answer;
But their Worships were mightily puzzl'd, before
Their wise heads could fix on a man, Sir;
Oh! the *notorious Quorum!*
The *silly notorious Quorum!*
They'd lead by the nose
Their friends and their foes;
But a true Wiltshire spirit shall floor'em.

PENRUDDOCKE they tried, and GODDARD beside;
The LONGS who a long time did serve, Sirs,
And the great Mister PHIPPS, with his thick cushion lips;
But none could be found with the nerve, Sirs,
They knew how a Contest would bleed'em;
So none had the folly to heed'em,
Till the *Ourang Outang*
Yell'd out to the Gang,
"I'll stand in the gap against freedom."

Loud cheers were then heard; and each pledg'd his word
To BENETT, that they would elect him;—
And if any stirr'd, to set up a third,
They swore one and all to reject him;
Go, get all the agents, you'll need'em;
So he hied to the lawyers and feed'em;
But told Mr. T———y,
He hadn't a guinea,
And scarce could preserve his *own* freedom.

Then LONG WELLESLEY came, a lad of some fame,
And swore he'd the county unfetter;
And, knowing his game, he levell'd his aim,
And penn'd his *notorious* letter;—
What confusion it made in the *Quorum*,
SIXTEEN straight resolved it would lower'em!!
'Twas wrong, to expose
To derision, all those,
Who formed the *notorious Quorum*.

But why should we have to laugh in our sleeve
At these BLUNDERHEADS' blundering notions?
We'll soon undeceive, and cause'em to grieve,
By shewing the true Freeholders' motions.
Their downfall they know is decreed 'em;
'Tis time from the County to weed 'em;
So away to the Poll,
With hand, heart, and soul,
And vote for LONG WELLESLEY and FREEDOM.

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## THE WELLINGTON BLUE.

*(A new Song to an old Tune.)*

When at Sarum we meet o'er the full flowing bowl,
To vote for Long Wellesley we'll go to the Poll,
With colours in sight, we, as Englishmen true,
Will stick to the last to the Wellington Blue.
*Derry down, &c.*

While Benett attempts by his horrid Corn Bill,
To raise all your Rents his wide pockets to fill,
He cuts down the BUSHEL, and would you believe,
He raises your Rents, and still laughs in his sleeve.

Cast your eye round the hustings and look at his party,
You'll see why his friends in his cause are so hearty,
With spoons in their mouths they were bred and were born,
And will soon raise their rents with the price of the corn.

Give Well'sley a PLUMPER, you'll never repent,
He will have the old bushel and lower your rent,
A good wheaten loaf will your workmen all buy,
And with barley will feed their fat Pig in the sty,

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## A NEW SONG TO AN OLD TUNE.

*"The Cock of the Walk."*

Come muster my Lads, nor be under control,
For "Wellesley" and Freedom, we'll go to the Poll,
Tho' Horsemen with Bludgeons and Threats should appear,
A Plumper for "Wellesley" we'll give without fear.

CHORUS.

So "Benett" and "Calley" may bluster and talk,
Be early and ready,
Good order and steady,
You'll make him at last the brave "Cock of the Walk."

Your Benett may boast he can plough and can sow;
Fat Pigs; and Potatoes and Barley can grow;
With the Tenantry these! they are not worth a Souse
To a Man you should send to the Parliament house.

*Chorus*—So Benett and Calley, &c.

Those Banners we saw at the Hustings display'd,
To our minds such achievements of valour convey'd,
That with true English hearts, as a compliment due,
We will readily vote for the Wellington Blue.

*Chorus*—So Benett, &c.

See Benett by threats, and with horrible grin,
Brings Cossacks and Club Sticks the Voters to win,
While Mistress "Long Well'sley," our Queen of the Day,
With the smiles of an angel would lead them *her* way.

CHORUS.

Let "Benett" and "Calley" thus bluster and talk,
Be early and ready,
Good order and steady,
You'll prove her dear Wellesley the "Cock of the Walk."

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## A NEW SONG TO AN OLD TUNE.

Toast—"*Our Sweethearts and Wives.*"

With freedom we'll vote when we go to the Poll;
No Quorum shall force us from Well'sley to stroll:
We'll stick to our colours, as good men and true,
And ne'er turn our backs on the Wellington Blue.

*Derry down*, &c.

While Benett at Bath o'er a meeting presides,
To humbug the farmer and public besides,
Your barns and your dairies he closely surveys,
And daily is scheming your rents how to raise.

See Benett cuts close with potatoes and barley,
And to lower the wages of workmen will parley;
While Well'sley will move all complaints from our door,
And out of his rents come the rates for the poor.

The ladies, with ribbands and handkerchiefs waving,
With "Well'sley for ever," your favours are craving;
A plumper for Well'sley—and, sure as your lives,
You will gain the fond smiles of your sweethearts and wives.

## HERE'S TO WELL'SLEY FOR EVER, AND THE LAND, BOYS, WE LIVE IN!

Tune—"*Since our Foes to invade us,*" &c.

Ye Sons of Britannia, whose name is endearing
To ev'ry true Englishman—join with me cheering
Our *Briton*—our WELLESLEY's name!
Though the proud Sons of Faction, with words *smooth and snaring*,
Do rail at his worth—yet *their falsehood's so glaring*,
Their calumny brightens his fame.

So fill full your glasses,—be this the toast given,
*Here's to Well'sley for ever, huzza!*
*Here's to Well'sley for ever, huzza!*
*Here's to Well'sley for ever, and the Land, boys, we live in!*

We despise the attacks of the *Quorum*, united
With the *Beckhampton Club*—whose honours are blighted,
In joining with Faction's base band
*To shackle our freedom*—in *fetters to bind us*—
But we're *Britons* by name—so in *deeds* they shall find us;
For WELLESLEY and FREEDOM we stand!

Chorus.—*So fill*, &c.

Though *Moon-raking* slander assail him—who feareth?
For his breast-plate a *heart that's unstained* he wareth
'Gainst Envy, 'gainst hatred, and pride:
In vain are their efforts—in vain are their railings;
In vain are their *Quorumite Clubs*, and assailings—
Such malice and hate we deride.

Chorus.—*So fill*, &c.

Then success to our WELL'SLEY! and may we for ever
Be *proud of his sister*—may his enemies never
Be able our love to undo:
His brave UNCLE, too, let us proudly remember,
And in a full bumper drink to our Defender—
*The Hero of dread Waterloo!*

Chorus.—*So fill*, &c.

*FINIS.*

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